Hafa Adai!

BECQ to re-enforce anti-litter regulations. PAGE 2
Casino temporarily shuts down. PAGE 3

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Saipan Tribune

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Kilili re-introduces shark fin trade ban

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Delegate Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan (Ind-MP) introduced legislation yesterday to ban buying and selling of shark fins throughout the United States. Stripping fins from sharks and throwing the animals back in the water to drown or bleed to death has contributed to the rapid decline of sharks worldwide. Closing the commercial market for shark fins in the U.S. should help end this wasteful and destructive practice. The legislation has bipartisan support and the backing of major environmental groups.

» **Bill mirrors Marianas conservation law**

Three years ago, Sablan authored similar legislation that he modeled after a Marianas law making it illegal to possess, sell, or distribute shark fins in the islands. Twelve states and two other territories have also banned shark finning or the sale of shark fins. In the last Congress, Sablan joined with Chairman Ed Royce (R-California) to lead the effort and gathered 262 cosponsors.

Sablan

This time around Rep. Michael T. McCaul has partnered with Sablan. "I am proud to help introduce the Shark Fin Sales Elimination Act, which builds upon existing federal law and state initiatives to ban the sale, purchase, or possession of shark fins in the United States," McCaul said. The Texas congressman is the lead Republican on the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

"This sound, bipartisan legislation will promote conservation and

See KILILI on Page 4

Egg shortage daunts consumers

By BEA CABRERA
beacabrerasaipan@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Consumers have been egg hunting the past couple of days trying to stock up on eggs, but after searching from one supermarket to another, no eggs on shelves of the frozen section of Saipan stores have become a familiar sight.

If you miss your sunny side up or scrambled eggs this morning for breakfast, the answer is there is cur-

See EGG on Page 4

BEA CABRERA

No eggs are available in the frozen section of many supermarkets and stores on Saipan for a week now.

FERDIE DE LATORRE

Marianas High School's cooperative education students and My Wave Club members learn about the equipment used by emergency medical technicians of the Department of Fire and Medical Services, at one of the activities in the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit held yesterday at the Marianas Base Camp, which is the former Mariana Resort & Spa in Marpi.

Over 400 public school students join Tourism Summit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 400 5th to 12th grade students from 14 public schools on Saipan participated in the annual Marianas Tourism Education Council Tourism Summit held yesterday at the Marianas Base Camp, which is the former Mariana Resort & Spa.

The theme of this year's MTEC Tourism Summit is "Marianas Strong." The activities started at 8am and finished at 2pm.

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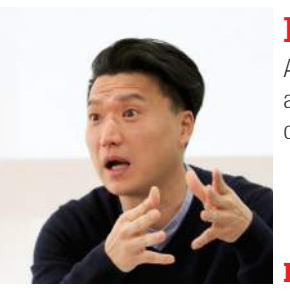
INSIDE

LOCAL
McDonald's Saipan recognized its employees during the fast-food company's recent Christmas party.

PAGE 10

NATION
President Donald Trump said Wednesday night he is postponing his State of the Union address until the partial government shutdown ends.

PAGE 19



LIFE & STYLE
Adam Crapser lives in limbo, a stranger in South Korea, the country of his birth.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

BECQ to re-enforce anti-litter regulations

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Bureau of Environmental and Coastal Quality will soon start re-enforcing anti-litter regulations because community members continue to leave trash on the sides of the road, some that are not even typhoon related.

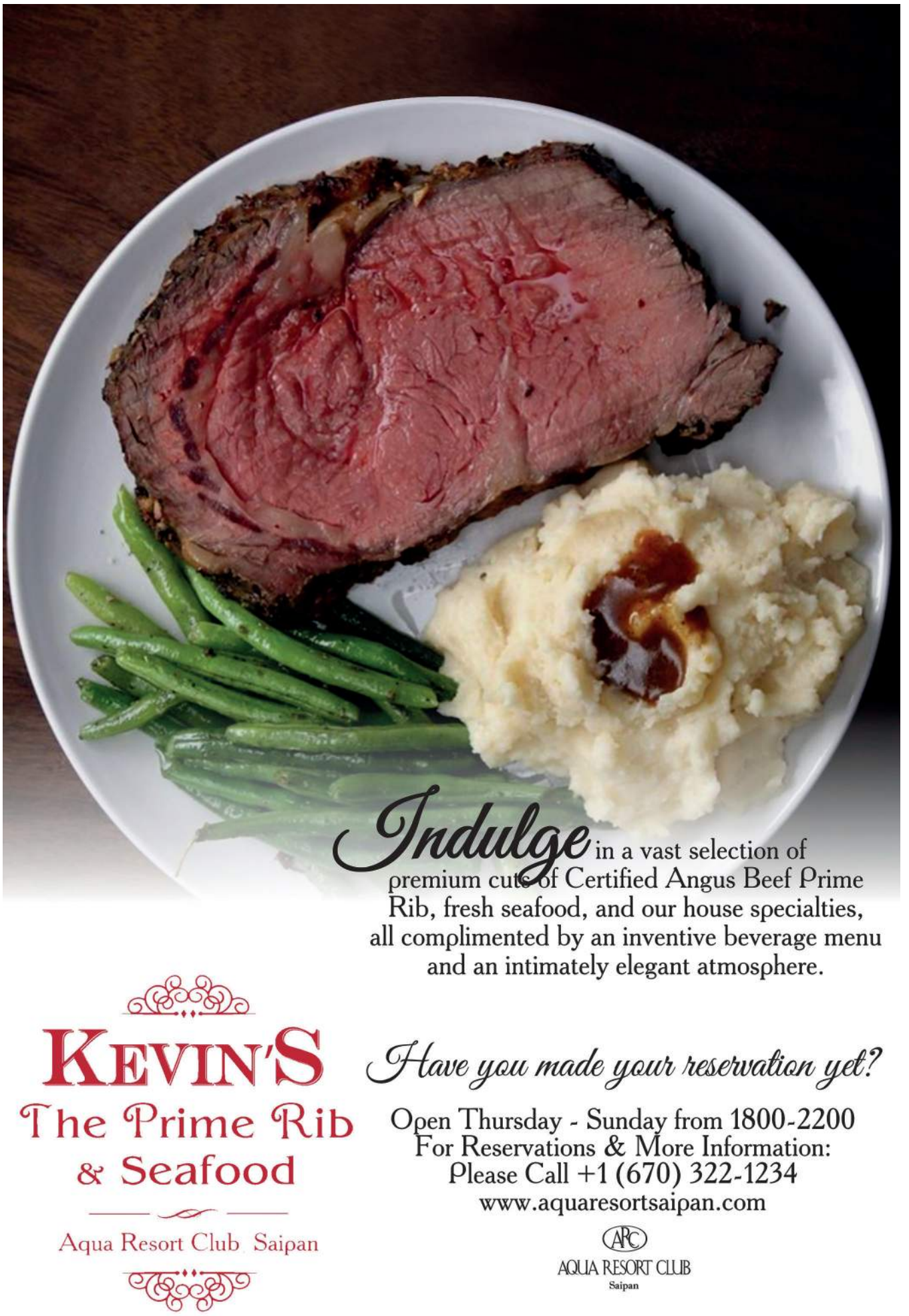
BECQ would like to inform the community that litter officers would be patrolling villages from 4:30am to 6:30pm to cite people who continue to leave trash by public roads.

"We want the community [to know] we're out here, we're making sure you're not bringing your household trash, because we will first warn you…then we will have no choice but to enforce the anti-littering regulation," he said.

Three months following the onslaught of Super Typhoon Yutu, the Department of Public Works, the Saipan Mayor's Office, and BECQ continue to pickup trash off of the side of public road ways despite the implemented deadline of Jan. 15.

The trash no longer consists of just typhoon-related debris but of household waste as well.

See BECQ on Next Page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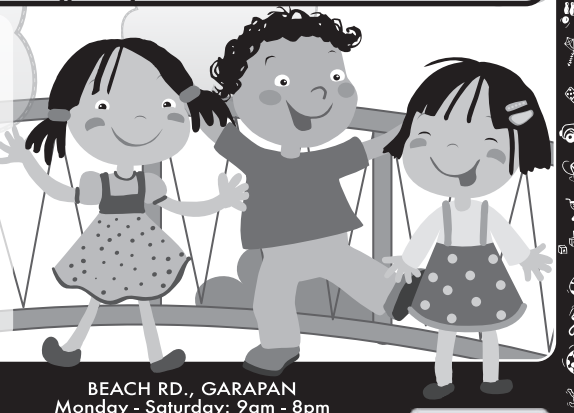
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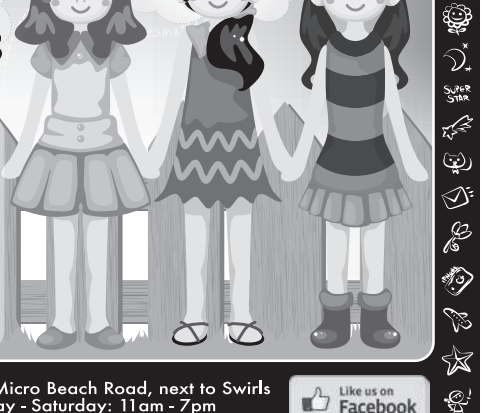
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Casino temporarily shuts down

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Problems with the surveillance of the lone casino on the island caused it to shut down temporarily yesterday while their technicians and other personnel remedy the situation. The casino, however, reopened before the day ended Thursday.

This was the second time that operations of the casino stopped as it was also halted for almost two days in November last year since there were no foreign players coming in due to the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

The Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport closed down and did not allowed incoming international flights after sustaining heavy damages brought by destructive force of Yutu, which reached Category 5 super typhoon intensity in late October last year.

A source told *Saipan Tribune* that the casino resumed its operations at around 5pm yesterday, which was the same time that Imperial Pacific (CNMI) LLC senior vice president for special projects Viola Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune*.

"The Imperial Resort casino was shut down temporarily this morning due to a glitch in the surveillance system. Due to safety concerns and because the casino had very little to no patrons in the early morning hours, the decision was made to close the casino until the surveillance system was operational," Alepuyo told *Saipan Tribune.*

"The closure is expected to last a short time and the casino should be back in full operations soon, but should be no later than 5pm."

A separate source said the Commonwealth Casino Commission also suggested for the casino to shut down its operations because of safety concerns. *Saipan Tribune* tried to confirm it with the CCC, but they have yet to respond as of press time.

IPI, when it shut down its casino operations in November last year, said they too suffered damage and revenue losses amounting to hundreds of thousands of dollars like the same way the other businesses experienced on the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

Yutu's destructive force directly impacted the CNMI's tourism industry with tourists that were on the island during the typhoon being stranded for a few days and had to be airlifted by emergency flights by their respective home countries.

BECQ

From Page 2

According to BECQ administrator Eli Cabrera, trash continues to re-appear when BECQ comes in for a final sweep.

"The deadline was to inform the public that the last day to be putting your trash out by the road is Jan. 15 and we would do a final sweep…but it looks like it's not working. They clean it today, we come by tomorrow and then there's trash again," he said.

Cabrera said that the agencies would need to stop picking up the trash because its no longer typhoon related.

"We're going to need to call it…we're only addressing typhoon-related debris. The challenge now that's making it difficult for the mayor and the Department of Public Works is… that whenever we clean in one place, give it a day or two, there's a new batch of trash piled up. At some point it's going to have to stop," he said.

"I know a lot of the stuff that we're collecting are suppose to be typhoon-related that FEMA covers with reimbursement for our efforts but if you start seeing trash bags, you know it came from the house, those are not typhoon debris but the community is becoming more dependent and comfortable… and that's kind of the challenge right now," he added.

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By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
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Over 2K WW2 explosives uncovered and detonated

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 2,000 explosive that date back to World War II were collected on Saipan and were detonated yesterday.

Yesterday the Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services along with the U.S Navy Explosive Ordnance Disposal Mobile Unit 5 Detachment Marianas set up for the detonation of 1,000 uncovered unexploded ordinances (UXOs) that date back to the Second World War.

DFEMS captain Paul Sasamoto said that the detonation would take two days to complete. The detonation process continues today at the Marpi area.

"We just set up a 1,000 pieces of UXOs that have been laying here since World War II that we have recovered…. we're detonating one today and again tomorrow," he said.

Sasamoto said that DFEMS has collected about 2,000 to 4,000 pieces of UXOs in the last four months.

"We're removing a thousand pieces and again tomorrow…it took about four months to collect the amount of UXOs …all over the island," he said.

During the detonation process, although roads were blocked off, a few tourists and a few locals still managed to enter the detonation area.

Sasamoto wanted to advise, for future reference, that all tourists and locals remain cautious during detonation sessions and to also report any uncovered UXOs to the department.

"When we have a detonation, please stay away from the area…and if you find UXOs lying around, please call 911 or call the fire department, secure the area, and make sure no one enters the area until we arrive," he said.

According to DFEMS spokesperson Derek Gersonde, it is common practice to detonate explosive remnants of war uncovered on Saipan that was dug up from ongoing construction projects.

Detonation of uncovered explosives ensures safety for the community because it is sometimes unknown whether the explosives are still active or dormant after being buried for decades.

Gersonde said the detonations are done probably twice a year or depending on how much has been collected.

Gersonde and a couple of the DFEMS personnel present yesterday mentioned that a lot of the detonated explosives were uncovered at a construction site behind the Triple J.

SUMMIT

From Page 1

At the Marianas Base Camp, the students learned about jobs, toured all the facilities, the hotel rooms, landscaping maintenance, and kitchen. They also checked Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services firetruck and ambulance and American Red Cross-NMI Chapter materials.

At the end of the summit, the students were given "My Marianas Pledge" cards, where they signed their names. They then had to stand up and make the pledge.

The tourism summit is an annual event since MTEC was created in 2002. MTEC and the Marianas Visitors Authority hosted the event. MTEC, is the brainchild of the Marianas Visitors Authority, partners, and the private sector. The founding partners include Duty Free Shoppers, Pacific Islands Club, Northern Marianas College, and the Public School System.

Emigrace Vinuya, a 9th grade student of Saipan Southern High School, said the summit is really helpful as they got a lot of information.

Vinuya said they also experienced hands on with the tourism industry.

Frank Kosam, a 5th grade student of Oleai Elementary School, said he likes the summit as they learned something good.

"Not to make trash inside the ocean. How to protect our island, make it beautiful and clean," Kosam said.

MTEC board chair Vicky Benavente said they usually called the event, the My Wave Club Tourism Summit, but this year MTEC decided to open it up to all public school students so they could see how important CNMI's tourism industry is.

Benavente said due to the recent Super Typhoon Yutu they did not really have time to form the My Way Club and organize so MTEC board of directors decided to open it up to all public schools.

"This is what they do. They come over here and learn about how important tourism is," she said.

Among the participants were the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter, Micronesia Islands Nature Alliance, Music of the Marianas Association, Coastal Resources Management, Department of Fire and Emergency Medical Services, LJ's Lawn Care LLC, and educational entities such as the Northern Marianas Trade Institute, Latte Training Academy, Northern Marianas College, and PSS.

Benavente said the students were getting an idea on what happens to a community when a disaster strikes and how is that disaster affect the people, and what happens to the tourism industry too.

"The kids really got a lot of information today. And our theme for the overall MTEC is tourism is everybody's business. So, we make it our business to teach the kids at a young age how important it is to them, what's their role," Benavente pointed out.

During the various activities, the students have to answer the question what would they do to help recover after disaster. Another question was how important is tourism to them and what the people can do as community to keep the tourists coming back.

Students were also asked how they can promote the islands to attract visitors, especially high-end tourists.

Benavente said the best ideas come from the youth on how the CNMI can make the islands prettier, how to make the people friendlier.

She said the Music of the Marianas Association also participated by teaching students about music and culture, values and language, the friendliness and hospitality.

"That's what our tourism is all about, being hospitable to our guests," Benavente said

Benavente said several My Wave Club members are now working in the tourism industry.

She cited that the Hyatt Regency Saipan's banquet manager started up as My Wave Club student at 4th grade.

"I have some students who were in the 5th grade and high school who are now working at PIC and other hotels, they're members of a My Wave Club before," she said.

Kanoa Resort operations director and MTEC board member Glenn Policare said this year's summit is "so incredible" as the students have access to a facility otherwise they would not normally have.

Policare said Mariana Resort is no longer open to the public, but Benavente was instrumental in getting Marianas Base Camp open and have the students over the kitchen, front desk, and engineering department.

"We have the kids be able to go out and see this, essentially it's a giant working operation. But we were able to get behind the scene," he said.

Policare said the children have been asking so many insightful questions whether it be housekeeping, whether be hotel rooms, food and beverage, or engineering department.

"It's been incredible. I think the overall goal again is to increase awareness. And to show the kids that tourism is everyone's business and there is always a position for somebody no matter what level, what role," he said.

Fiesta Resort & Spa general manager and MTEC board member Wendi S. Herring said the summit gets into the school at all different levels both private and public.

"Today we are focusing primarily on the public schools. But it really instills to the kids how important tourism is to the islands. Without it, where we would be?" Herring said.

She said tourism is the No. 1 economic driver that the CNMI has.

"Just seeing their enthusiasm today and speaking to them and greeting them. It is so rewarding and so much fun. And you can see a lot of them have a passion for it. They understand that tourists are so important and they love to greet them, get to know them," Herring said.

EGG

From Page 1

rently a shortage of eggs on island for a week now.

According to a customer service officer from a San Vicente supermarket, it has been a week since the delivery of eggs stopped. "We officially ran out of eggs to sell just this week because our stock and inventory have been exhausted…Early this week, we noticed that the egg shortage around the island was real when a bakery that has a supplier of their own went to us and bought eggs in bulk," she said.

"We immediately called the wholesalers. One said of them said that since shipment comes from the U.S. there was an overlapping and piling of deliveries after Super Typhoon Yutu hit so there was an overstock of eggs and because of that, orders were suspended. But then some eggs went bad and the consumption of eggs over the Christmas season aggravated the already low supply and this is why we have this situation now," she added.

Shirley's Coffee Shop Garapan, a restaurant that relies heavily on eggs in their dishes like omelette and scrambled eggs, is trying to survive and finding means to replenish their low supply of eggs before it diminishes. "I was told by one supplier that the delivery of eggs will return in February. Although we only have a few days before February comes, that is still a long time for a restaurant business and our kitchen cannot run out of eggs," assistant supervisor Ana Tala said.

"I called many suppliers on island looking for eggs of whatever size but nothing is available. Our chef himself will help in scouting out sources because we don't know how long our supply will last especially with the weekend coming," she added.

Another restaurant that relies on eggs in their offerings is IHOP in Garapan and it has a different story to tell. "Fortunately for us, we haven't felt the shortage of eggs on island. Currently, our suppliers still delivers and meets our needs for eggs," senior manager for Ajisen and IHOP Alice Kentoki said.

"We hope that it will stay that way as our dishes rely on eggs as an ingredient or a part of the dish itself. I hope the shortage will not drag for a long time," she added.

A supervisor in a supermarket in Garapan also confirmed that their store is running low on eggs but their supplier promised delivery Friday (today). "We were never zero with eggs, just running low that will actually last until tomorrow (today). When that is accomplished, we are back to normal," he said.

"We were told that the problem was just delay on shipment so there is nothing to worry about. We ask the community to be patient as our suppliers will pull through," he added.

KILILI

From Page 1

responsible fishing practices that are good for the environment and our economy. It is long since time we leverage our economic might against shark-finning and work to counter the larger issue of animal poaching and the illicit trafficking of animal parts.

"I want to thank Congressman Sablan for his effort on this legislation and for working in a bipartisan fashion on its introduction."

Indigenous cultures respect sharks

Worldwide, an estimated 73 million sharks are being caught each year for their fins. Elimination of this apex predator has a negative effect on the rest of the ecosystem. By preying on the old, sick, and slow, sharks keep other fish populations healthy and check the spread of disease.

"Destroying millions of sharks simply for their fins is a wasteful practice that our indigenous Chamorro and Rafaluwasch cultures in the Marianas would never have allowed," Sablan said. "We would have used as much of the shark as possible for food, tools, and other purposes." Sablan's new bill does allow sharks to be caught for non-commercial, subsistence purposes or with a government permit for scientific research.

"The strong, bipartisan support for this legislation sends a clear message that we have to pay more attention to protecting the Earth's oceans and the life within those oceans. Banning the sale of shark fins is important, but just a small step towards giving the oceans the full respect they must have in federal law.

"Ultimately, all life on Earth depends on the health of the oceans, something our Chamorro and Refaluwasch cultures continue to understand deeply."

"Sharks worth more alive than in a bowl of soup"

The Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act of 2019 is supported by Oceana, the Humane Society Legislative Fund, Animal Wellness Action, and the Animal Welfare Institute.

"Oceana applauds Congressmen Sablan and McCaul for their leadership in introducing this legislation that represents an opportunity to reinforce the status of the United States as a leader in shark conservation," said Whitney Webber, Campaign director for Oceana. Oceana is the largest international advocacy organization focused solely on ocean conservation.

"Shark populations are critically important for healthy ocean ecosystems, which support thousands of livelihoods and generate millions of dollars in coastal recreation and tourism. Now it is time for national action."

"Sharks are worth more alive than in a bowl of soup," said Sara Amundson, president of the Humane Society Legislative Fund. "And although the U.S. bans the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning in U.S. waters, our shark fin economy spurs finning elsewhere.

"I applaud Representatives Sablan and McCaul for introducing the Shark Fin Trade Elimination Act, which enables America to expand its leadership in shark protection."

Nancy Blaney, director of government affairs for the Animal Welfare Institute, said the group looks forward to helping pass the bill in this Congress.

Sablan is a senior member of the House Natural Resources Committee which will have jurisdiction over the legislation. Forty-nine members of Congress signed on as original cosponsors, when the bill was introduced yesterday. ***(PR)***

CEC targets printing 4K ballots for special election

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Election Commission is targeting of printing about 4,000 ballots for the March 23, 2019 special election for the vacant seat of the House of Representatives for Precinct 3.

CEC administrative officer Kayla S. Igitol also disclosed that votes for the special election will be manually counted.

Igitol said the ballots will be printed locally and not from off-island that they did for last Nov. 13 general election.

As of last week, there were 3,803 registered voters for Precinct 3. CEC closed the registration for Precinct 3 last Wednesday or the day when Gov. Ralph DLG Torres signed the proclamation setting the March 23 special election.

Igitol

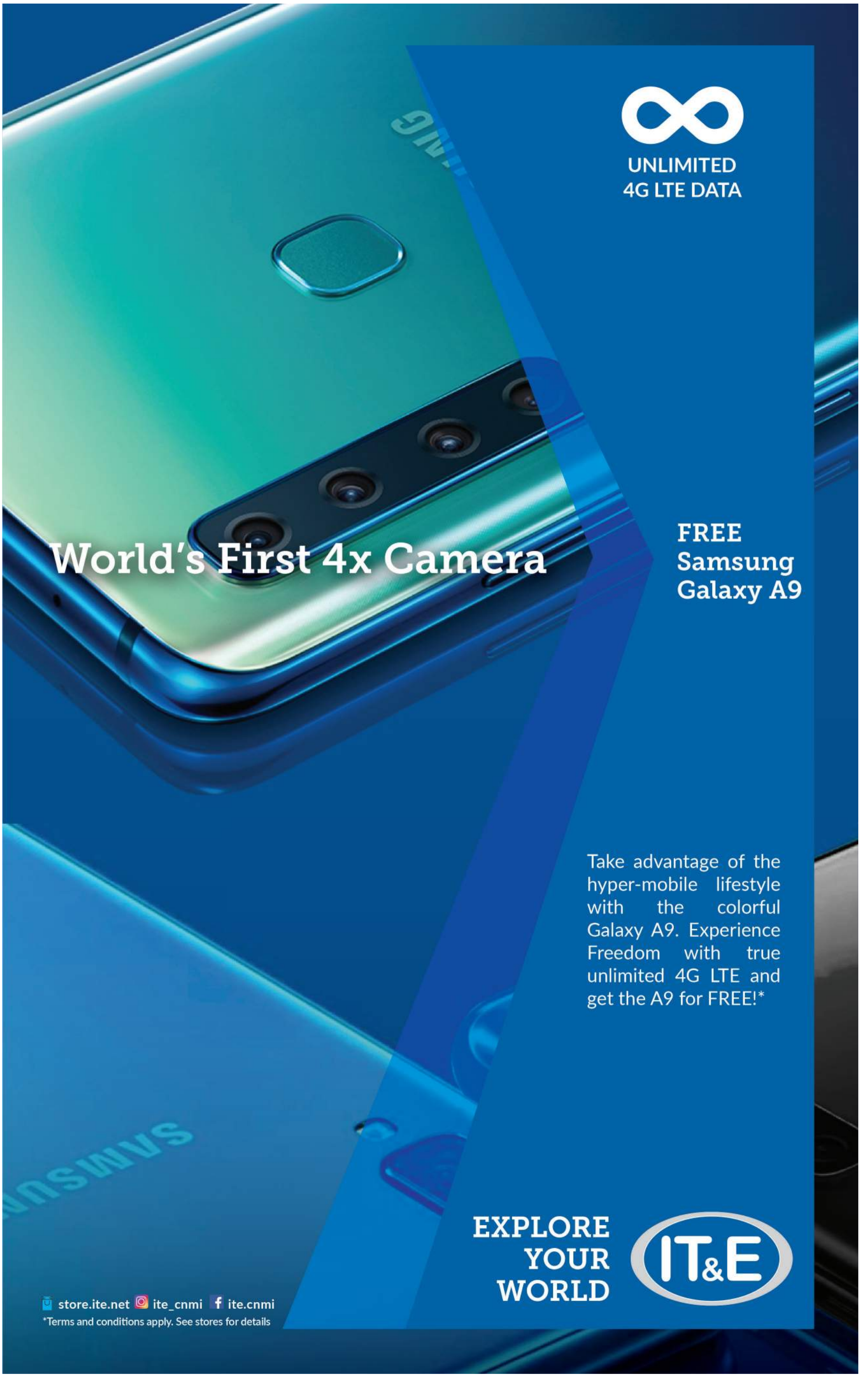
CEC also started last Wednesday accepting request for absentee ballots and also opened the submission for nominating petition and candidacy.

Igitol said based on the last Nov. 13 election, there were 394 absentee ballots.

She said for this special election, their projection is to have 350 absentee voters.

The CEC board has yet to decide as to the designated polling place.

The passing of representatuve Francisco S. Dela Cruz (R-Saipan) last Jan. 6, resulted in a vacant House seat. Dela Cruz won his re-election bid in the last Nov. 13 election, finishing fifth among 13 candidates. There are six seats for Precinct 3.



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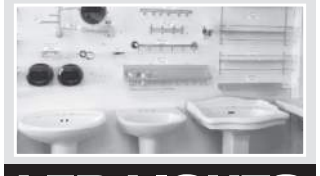
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First batch of students take on lifeguard certification

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A total of 14 students are headed toward becoming certified lifeguards under a program that was delayed for at least two months due to Super Typhoon Yutu late 2018.

The 500 Sails' Gamsun Project, an advanced swim class aimed at training aspiring lifeguards, noted in a statement that `their first batches of students are headed toward becoming certified lifeguards this weekend.

Marianas High School junior Katherina Illahi noted that her favorite moment of the training would be passing the three swimming prerequisites with her fellow batchmates for the project.

The swimming prerequisites to take the lifeguard certification course includes a 550-meter, or about a third of a mile; two minutes of treading water without hands; and retrieving a submerged brick and swimming with it for 20 yards.

The prerequisites were originally scheduled for early November 2018 but were delayed due to Super Typhoon Yutu. In the meantime, the statement noted, the students practiced their coaching techniques through guarding, leading, and assisting with swim classes for children of families in former shelters.

MHS junior Daryll De Luna noted that about 30 children would have the "skills to be great swimmers."

"The students were sad when they found out they were going back to their homes, but all in all, it was great," he said.

While expenses for the program were not disclosed in the statement, the organization noted that the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Northern Marianas College CREES' Family, Community and Youth Development Program and 4-H Marianas, and the Administration for Native Americans secured funding for 12 high school students to take the lifeguard certification course in exchange for participating in the Gamsun Project during the Spring Semester and beyond.

"Western Pacific Training Solutions is proud to be a part of the Gamsun Project," lead lifeguard course instructor Glenn Policare said in a statement.

"The dedication this group has shown to becoming Water Front Lifeguards has been amazing. From competitive, seasoned athletes, to novice first-timers, the entire group encourages each other along the way," he continued.

"500 Sails Dolphin Club Saipan co-founders Emma and Pete Perez started with free swimming lessons for adults back in June 2015 and are now expanding lessons for kids grades K-12," 500 Sails program coordinator Samantha Birmingham-Babauta noted in a statement. "The freshly minted lifeguards will provide watchful eyes as 500 Sails staff and Dolphin Club Saipan volunteer teachers and lead the youth swimming lessons for the 500 Sails Gamsun Project," she added.

The 500 Sails Gamsun Project will host three orientations on Feb. 1, 8, and 15, 2019 from 8am to 10am beachfront of the Guma Sakman for those interested.

The 500 Sails Gamsun Project will officially begin on Febr. 28, 2019. For enrollment information, please contact Lorenza Aldan at lorenza.aldan@marianas.edu. All classes are free of charge thanks to the sponsors listed above.

Chamber's Palacios says 2018 was challenging

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Looking back, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Velma Palacios said the CNMI came together as one to overcome all adversity the community faced in the past year, adding that partnerships from all sectors gave them the chance to find ways to take on the challenges.

The issue on the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker or CW-1 program and consecutive typhoons hitting the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota were two of the major challenges that the Commonwealth faced in 2018.

Palacios said the Chamber banded together with the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter, and the Strategic Economic Development Council to form the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp.

The NMBAC then worked with Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and his administration, and Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) to fight for the extension of the CW-1 program and ensure that the CNMI would have sufficient workforce to support the economy.

The CW-1 program was scheduled to end last Dec. 31, 2018 but was extended for another 10 years brought by H.R. 5956 or the Northern Mariana Islands U.S. Workforce Act of 2018 that was signed into law by President Donald Trump in July last year.

However, Palacios said, their work won't just stop there despite the gains. "As businesses, we have a lot to do as 10 years will be fast approaching. We must continue to retain, develop, and train our existing workforce, which includes providing the sufficient compensation and benefits."

"There are also amendments to the legislation of the CW-1 program we have to work on, like the renewal dates and other requirements to ensure the sustainability of our economy," added Palacios, who was named as Champion's 2018 Businessperson of the Year.

She also praised the partnership by local and federal officials in the aftermath of the two typhoons—Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu—that devastated the islands last September and October. "The entire CNMI is still recovering from Yutu. We have made tremendous progress due to Torres' leadership, assistance from Saipan Mayor David Apatang, both local and federal organizations, military, reservists, and our off-island partners."

"We as the business community, also helped towards this progress because we know how important it is to keep our businesses open, to ensure the needed infrastructure is up and running, to ensure our economy does not suffer tremendously."

Palacios added that local businesses were also impacted by Yutu. "[Your businesses] sustained physical and structural damage, your employees lost their homes, and you tried to maintain operations throughout the past months as you personally have to deal with your own struggles."

"I would like to again applaud you all for stepping up and doing your part. From finding shelter for your employees to importing supplies that the community needs, to donating hundreds of thousands of dollars to relief efforts. I continue to be amazed with hour our business leaders and organizations work together to help our islands and residents in times of need."

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Transfer station, landfill returns to regular operations

The Lower Base Transfer Station and the Marpi Landfill will return to its regular scheduled operations today, Jan. 25, 2019, which is from 7:30am to 4:30pm, Monday to Saturday. Furthermore, all residential customers will begin payment of tipping fees for trash disposal effective Monday, Janu. 28, 2019. ***(PR)***

Triple J Saipan 5k Bubble Color Run/Walk on Feb. 23

The Triple J Saipan 5k Bubble Color Run/Walk is set for Feb. 23. Early bird registration opens from Feb. 1 to the 22 until 4pm the last day for a rate of $10 per registrant.

Locations for registration to be released soon so follow Triple J affiliates (Triple J Motors, Great Harvest Bread Co. Saipan, Surf Club Restaurant, Bubba Gump Shrimp Co. Saipan, Capricciosa, and Tony Roma's) on social media for the most up-to-date information. Triple J will give away a few free bibs for runners to join the foamiest color run on Saipan so follow us on Facebook and Instagram for contest details. ***(PR)***

3 MONTHS AFTER YUTU

Saipan, Tinian recovery moving steadily

Three months have passed since Super Typhoon Yutu made landfall on the islands of Saipan and Tinian, but recovery efforts continue to move steadily and swiftly in the CNMI. Tourists have returned to our islands. Power and water restoration, stabilized. The Temporary Emergency Tent and Roof Installation Support (TETRIS) mission is expected to conclude in less than two weeks. And the CNMI workforce, back to normal operating hours. Even the majority of private sector businesses have bounced back from the CNMI's latest disaster.

Although construction of new permanent facilities for the CNMI Public School System and the Northern Marianas College campuses may take a few years to rebuild, 32 temporary facilities have been completed, and is expected to be ready for occupancy in the next coming weeks. An additional 34 structures will be constructed at the Koblerville Elementary School and Northern Marianas College campuses with completion dates expected to be forthcoming in the next few weeks.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IX Regional Administrator Robert J. Fenton attended Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold I. Palacios earlier this month at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

The Federal Emergency Management Agency's Region IX Regional Administrator, Robert J. Fenton, made his second visit to the CNMI since Yutu last week to meet with CNMI senior leadership and the FEMA operations team spearheading Yutu recovery efforts on Saipan and Tinian. Making his attendance to the inauguration of Gov. Ralph DL. Torres and Lt. Gov. Arnold Palacios as well as the inaugural ceremonies of Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang and Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan were also part of his priorities.

During his stay, Fenton mentioned, "Resiliency was key." Putting redundancy behind resiliency is a key aspect that FEMA in particular is looking to improve in the CNMI. To name a few measures, FEMA looks to replace wooden poles previously installed by CUC post-disaster, with concrete ones. Generators are also being set in place by water pumps to ensure that in the event another disaster happens, power reduction to water wells will not be a factor. Additionally, building more technologically advanced school campuses are on the horizon for the CNMI.

Fenton reiterated, "It's been a great partnership not only with CNMI officials from the governor to those on the mayoral level, but to the impacted

See SAIPAN on Next Page

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Lawsuit by 2 plane crash survivors vs Star Marianas Air, others dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The federal court dismissed Wednesday with prejudice a lawsuit filed by two survivors of a fatal plane crash on Tinian in 2013 after the parties in the case have reached a settlement deal.

Dismiss with prejudice means survivors Pengliang Cai and Lei Wang can no longer re-file their lawsuit against Star Marianas Air Inc. and other co-defendants.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona said pursuant to the stipulation of the remaining parties in the case to dismiss this action, this matter is dismissed with prejudice as to all parties.

Manglona said the court shall retain jurisdiction over the matter to enforce the terms of the settlement agreements between the parties.

The judge said each party shall bear their own attorneys' fees and court costs.

Manglona directed the court's clerk to close the case.

The parties have asked the court to dismiss the case after Manglona gave them until last Monday to either voluntarily dismiss the lawsuit or explain to the court why it should not dismiss the case.

Manglona noted that the parties had requested several requests to postpone the proceedings since the lawsuit was filed in 2015.

The parties did not disclose the terms of the settlement deal.

Last October, the parties requested the court to give them more time as they are finalizing a settlement agreement.

John K. Courtney, is counsel for survivors Pengliang Cai and Lei Wang. Timothy H. Bellas is counsel for Star Marianas Air and co-defendants.

Courtney and Bellas then disclosed that their efforts at reaching a final settlement deal have been ongoing with one another and with their respective clients.

On Oct. 6, 2013, a Star Marianas flight took off from Tinian and crashed before reaching Saipan, killing the pilot and two passengers, and injuring four passengers.

Xiaolei Zhang, a Chinese national, lost her life in the crash. Cai, who is the husband of Zhang, survived the crash along with another passenger, Lei Wang.

Cai also sued on behalf of his deceased wife against the defendants.

Cai and Wang sued Star Marianas Air and its then-operator, Tinian Transportation Management Solutions Inc., travel agency Top Development Inc., and the deceased pilot.

The plaintiffs sued the defendants for negligence, wrongful death, negligent infliction of emotional distress, and strict liability. They asked the court to hold the defendants liable to pay them damages.

SENATOR

From Page 7

survivors as well... we've been treated really well by everyone here. Our staff tries to go the extra mile to look for every available program that will help the CNMI not only recover, but build back stronger and better for the next event."

TETRIS Program

On Nov. 5, 2018, the CNMI government, in coordination with FEMA, the Dept. of Defense, and Red Cross, introduced the TETRIS program.

The TETRIS program was designed to assist families whose homes were totaled or majorly destroyed as a result of Yutu. TETRIS is expected to operationally sunset early to mid-February. By the conclusion of the TETRIS program, an expectancy of nearly 500 roofs and 1,900 tents will have been installed on both the islands of Saipan and Tinian.

The CNMI government urges any resident who has previously applied for the TETRIS program, and are unaware of the status of their application, to follow-up at Fire Station #4 located in Koblerville.

Although the deadline to submit an application under the TETRIS program has passed, questions regarding the TETRIS program may still be answered at Fire Station #4 where staff are available Monday through Saturday between 8am through 4pm, or by contacting them at 664-9083.

As a reminder, qualifying for the TETRIS program does not disqualify you from FEMA individual assistance programs. If residents have not registered for FEMA assistance, the deadline to do so is this Saturday, Jan. 26, 2018 at 4pm. To apply in person, head to the Multi-purpose Center in Susupe.

Upon anticipation of the TETRIS program concluding, FEMA has begun coordination efforts for volunteer construction professionals to assist with additional temporary home repairs to those who may not have received assistance throughout the duration of the TETRIS program.

Disaster Recovery Center transitioning to Disaster Loan Outreach Center

Last Saturday, Jan. 26, at 4pm, the Disaster Recovery Center on Saipan will close, but assistance will still be available for disaster survivors impacted by Typhoons Mangkhut and Yutu.

Beginning Tuesday, Jan. 29, the Small Business Administration will open a Disaster Loan Outreach Center at the location of the former DRC, the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center on Beach Road in Susupe. Hours of operation will be from 9am to 6pm, Tuesday through Saturday.

The DLOC will be closed on Sundays and Mondays.

At this stage of the recovery process, the emphasis for assistance is to meet the long-term needs of businesses and individuals impacted by Mangkhut and Yutu. SBA customer service representatives will continue to answer questions, explain the application process and help businesses and individuals close their approved disaster loans.

After the DRC closes, survivors whose homes were affected by the typhoons can still check the status of their application, ask questions and learn about the appeals process by logging in to their account at www.DisasterAssistance.gov or calling the FEMA Helpline at 800-621-3362. Persons who are deaf, hard of hearing or have a speech disability and use a TTY may call 800-462-7585. Toll-free numbers are open daily.

Latest totals indicate FEMA has approved a total of $22.8 million in individual assistance, and the SBA another $75.6 million to assist individuals and business with repairs to their homes or establishments.

Shelter and housing

The shelter population has reduced immensely since Yutu made landfall. To date, the Kagman Emergency Shelter Facility remains the lone operating shelter for residents where the CNMI government continues to house a population of 89 individuals, approximately an 80-percent decrease from the initial shelter population a day after Yutu struck the island of Saipan. Feeding continues for the remaining shelterees as well.

The CNMI government remains steadfast in prioritizing long-term housing solutions for those severely impacted by Yutu.

Permanent housing construction repair and new construction program

Yutu resulted in catastrophic damages to hundreds of homes in Saipan and Tinian, and with very limited options for temporary housing, FEMA has approved the permanent repair program that will fund significant repairs to damaged homes in accordance with high building codes and standards. FEMA has authorized the construction of new homes that will be highly resistant to future storm damages.

To be eligible for the permanent repair or construction funds, homeowners must have registered for disaster assistance and then accept the permanent work in place of traditional FEMA financial assistance.

Starting in the next two weeks, FEMA and CNMI officials will begin meeting with homeowners in small groups to explain the permanent repair and construction programs, review designs for the newly-built homes and answer questions. The permanent repair program is scheduled to start first with more time required to organize the new construction effort. Both programs will begin in 2019. FEMA's contractors continue to perform on-site assessments of homes eligible for the permanent work program to further refine the requirements and timeline of this recovery effort that will help hundreds of families and make Saipan more resilient in future disasters.

Mitigation efforts

Mitigation efforts are well underway to assist the CNMI with hardening structures, not just within critical public infrastructure, but with also rebuilding residential homes. FEMA staff are currently spread throughout the island of Saipan in various hardware stores conducting outreach to residents who have begun repairs.

Visit one of the following locations to speak to a FEMA representative on best mitigation practices:

- Guang Dong Hardware Jan. 25-26, 8am-4:30pm As Lito Road, Chalan Kanoa
- Hong Ye Hardware Jan. 29-Feb. 2, 8am-4:30pm Afetna Road, San Antonio
- Transamerica Corp Feb. 5-6, 8am-4:30pm Middle Road, Chalan Lau Lau

Power and water restoration

With assistance from power crews out of Colorado, Guam and Micronesia, power restoration on Saipan and Tinian continues post-Yutu. To date, 88 percent of Saipan and 65 percent of Tinian customers have been energized.

As of CUC's latest service summary, water production was reported to be at 91 percent with 119 out of the 131 water wells operating; reportedly, 114 water wells are online with the CUC power grid and five online with FEMA generators.

On Tinian, the Maui Pump Station remains operational and water is 100 percent online in the villages of San Jose, Marpo Valley, Carolinas Heights, and Marpo Heights I and II. Water production on Tinian is steady at 100 percent online.

Education

A number of public school campuses including the Northern Marianas College sustained major damages post-Yutu. As a result, the CNMI Public School System has had to combine several school campuses into one campus, operating in double, sometimes, triple sessions.

Through the request of the CNMI government, FEMA has begun the construction of 42 new classrooms at the Koblerville Elementary School campus, 32 of which have already been completed, and 24 for the Northern Marianas College which are expected to be completed in the near coming weeks.

NMC looks to return to their As Terlaje campus by Feb. 11, 2019.

Debris removal

Debris removal has been an ongoing mission and continues to be one of the priorities of the CNMI government. Since Yutu made landfall, FEMA has supported the CNMI's initiative of maximum debris reduction. Part of this initiative included the installation of air burners to reduce the impact to the landfills by burning as much green waste and lumber as possible, and by also putting mechanisms in place to recycle all metals.

Debris related to white goods waste and damaged transformers are being containerized with assistance provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and transported from residential homes to transfer stations by the local Bureau of Environmental Coastal Quality (BECQ) and the Dept. of Fire & Emergency Medical Services (DFEMS).

Once all waste has been containerized and/or incinerated, remaining debris will be shipped off-island for proper disposal and/or material recycling.

The CNMI government continues to ask residents to please separate debris according to classifications of what is deemed acceptable for curbside pick-up. Debris should continue being separated according to the following piles:

1. Green Waste (trees, shrubs, plants, grass, etc.)
2. Tin (roofing metal, metal sheets, etc.)
3. Lumber (plywood, 2x2s, 2x4s, etc.)
4. Household Waste (mattresses and furniture damaged by Yutu, DOES NOT INCLUDE daily household trash)

Day-to-day household trash mixed in with the above piles will NOT be picked up by debris crews. Please move all debris to public easements where it is easily accessible by heavy equipment operators. Crews are unable to enter private property.

Torres sincerely thanks those who have come far to assist the CNMI in our time of need.

During his inaugural address, he recognized, "From the U.S. Navy Seabees, Airforce Red Horses, Guam National, and Air Guard, Guam, Hawaii, and CNMI Reservists and the Marines from Okinawa who placed their minds and their bodies toward our people. This team, in coordination with FEMA, were led into the villages and our homes by our people – our police officers, our homeland security officials, and our firemen, who have instilled in the TETRIS and roof repair programs a sense of purpose and have led this recovery from the front. Our neighbors, our friends, have become family... We will rebuild from this typhoon, we will be stronger for the next. We accept the help and friendship of those who came in our hour of need. To all our partners in Micronesia, we will be there for you, should the need ever arise."

Palacios also added, "Our islands have endured much in the past three months. And we are on the road to recovery. While we still have a long way to go, progress is underway. Much is expected of our new administration, and we assure you. Governor Torres and I accept the challenges this extraordinary time presents and vow to lead the Commonwealth to a new future."

Follow the CNMI on social media

The CNMI Joint Information Center (JIC) urges the community to follow the following social media platforms to get the latest weather updates and information:

- CNMI EOC State Warning Point Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/cnmieocswp/
- CNMI Office of the Governor Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CNMIGov/

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/ralphdlg.torres/

- CNMI Joint Information Center: https://www.facebook.com/JICNMI/

The CNMI JIC also encourages residents to download HSEM's readyCNMI App available for FREE in the Apple iStore or Google PlayStore to receive the latest weather updates and notifications.

For more information or media inquiries, contact Nadine Deleon Guerrero, HSEM External Affairs Officer at ncdlg@cnmihsem.gov.mp. ***(PR)***

KCHC has new chief medical officer

The Kagman Community Health Center, Inc. is proud to announce and welcome Jason Willis, MD as chief medical officer. In combination with seeing patients, Willis will be responsible for the overall medical and clinical management of the health center.

Willis' certifications and fellowships broadens the landscape of available medical services in the Saipan, especially in wound care and infectious diseases since expertise in these areas were not previously accessible on-island. He will be practicing internal medicine but is also certified in wound care and infectious diseases.

He has worked at Federally Qualified Health Centers in Oklahoma and Wyoming in various capacities and is familiar with the how the KCHC operates under federal grants and guidelines.

The KCHC Board and CEO thanks Dr. Daniel Lamar for his assistance during his time as interim chief medical officer. Lamar will go back to his regular duties as a physician. Other KCHC providers include Dr. Tiffany Willis and nurse practitioners Leticia Reyes and Arley Long. ***(PR)***

Mount Carmel School's 2nd quarter President's List and Honor Roll

Mount Carmel School congratulates these students for making it to the 2nd Quarter President's List & Honor Roll.

PRESIDENT'S LIST
Students must have a GPA of 4.00 or above and must attain character marks of VG or above.

1st Grade
Adelle Jane Kautz
Amber Faith Militante
Ava Carmina Sablan
Cali Jade Cabrera
Chloe Cepeda
Ezaela Patrice Camacho
Heaven Agnes Deleon Guerrero
Jaelynn Lisua
Jayda Milan Torres
Jeremy Terlaje
Kathleen Cano
Ki Eun Lee
Krish Devjani
Lily Chantrea Lim
Mikayla Guerrero
Paige Kanae Cabrera
Reef Cole Reyes
Victoria Eve Terlaje
Von Derick Lauron
Ye Lei (Bruce) Song

2nd Grade
Bella Deleon Guerrero
David Joseph Camacho
Gonshiro Pedro Jose Sasamoto
Haein Lee
Jaze Enzo San Nicolas
Kainoa Tenorio
Leonmar Jaedon Regalado
O-Ren Fumiyo Sasamoto
Zian Michael Obnimaga

3rd Grade
Andrea Fhe Remilloza
Cecilia R. Villagomez
Do Geon Kim
Jadine Nicole Pangelinan
Jayson Jared Tagabuel
Layla Carmen Ann Palacios

4th Grade
Carly Kate Dela Cruz
Christine Rosanne Castro
Christopher James Dela Cruz
Hope McQuay
Jeffrey Concepcion
Jose Clarence Tenorio
Jupri Torres
Justin Mallari
Kaden Christian Propst
Kesiil Camacho
Leah Michel Lansangan
Maya Jae Jung
Maya McQuay
Michael Calvo
Naomi Skye Matsumoto
Patricia Matsumoto
Pedro Jose Tomokane
Sage R. Villagomez
Sarah Angela Melchor
Wayne Dominic Ano
Yukiko Kiyomi Sasamoto

5th Grade
Ainsley Ancheta
Andrick Poon
Annieskha Arreza
Asa Vanessa Backe
Ayanna Faith Matsumoto
Camron Zavier Pangelinan
Gabin Kim
Gavril Myles Santiago
Heleyna Frielle Dela Santa
Jessiana Tenorio
Jieun Kwon
Joseph Brandon Pangelinan
Kai Manning
Lance Jericho Javier
Leonard Jake Regalado
Lexi Marie Lansangan
Mikaehla Paige Mendoza
Oscar Bien Buenaflor
Quince Emanuele Tizon
Sophia Tenorio
Therese Joy Ogo
Valerie Anne Estella
William Matthew Cano

6th Grade
Chelsy Anne Reyes
Jamie Lee
Kaeli Pathil
Laizza Vianca Mallari
Latisha Anne De Jesus
Maili Peter
Tricia Antonnette Palacios

7th Grade
Avah Marie Torres
Brandon Lee
Earle Gabreil San Nicolas
Gwen Tiffany Gamab
IG Kamiya Nicole Obnimaga
Paul Angelo Santos
Ruben Antonio Guerrero
Sua Kim
Tyana Kisha Tesiro

8th Grade
Brent Matthew Ortizo
Brissa Hunter
Donnie James Jr. Militante
Eric Oh
Jill Anne Marie Mallari
Kayannie Peter
Keehara Nielsen Baldazo
Kina Dela Cruz
Kyla Monique Cabrera
Manuel Jacinto Pangelinan
Raphael Christian Galang
Renee Kiser
Yurihana Rosa Sasamoto

Freshmen
Aleia Santos
Fiona Marielle Bucalig
Jeremiah Jerome Diaz
Larry Dean Cruz
Richard Jesus Villagomez
Vaughn Andrei Mallari
Victoria Ancheta

Sophomores
Connie Zhu
John Isaac San Nicolas
Katherine Avendano-Woodruff
Mikee Mame Mendoza
Victoria Nicole Santos

Juniors
Danielle Jaden Yamagata-Santos
Jan Matthew Millo
Jeffrey Chua
Jim Michael Ham
Kalea Lou Borja
Katelyn Rabang
Lleyton Andre Javier

Seniors
Giselle Ivy Leong
Jan Emmanuel Bobadilla
Matt Jason Moran
Minju Kang
Reica Jucel Ramirez

HONOR ROLL
Students must have a GPA of 3.66 or above and must not have any behavior grade of U or NI.

1st Grade
Brianna Palacios
John Mateo Rabang
Manuel Villagomez
Reesa Marie Borja

2nd Grade
Bentley James Albuen
Caleb John Aldan
Destiny Margarita Raynne Muna
Donald Laurence Amwolschigh Tagabuel
Donray Abholmwar Barcinas
Esrae Aguon
Isabella Cabrera
James Matsumoto
Komiko Aureen Takanobu
Liana Margaret Deleon Guerrero
Miguel Garret Mendoza
Nea Zoe Dandan
Ryusei Asai

3rd Grade
Arstin Itibwulschigh Tagabuel
Cyril Michael Pangilinan
Gabriella Aundrea Inos
Isabella Soledad Demapan
Janessa Francine Arriola
Jessi Chen
Julius Sheu
Katherine Hwang
Kayla Larson
Remiegem Melchor

4th Grade
Enzo Umeki Sasamoto
Frank Anthony Reyes
Hiromi Rosa Sasamoto
Julio Mellen Monserrat
Nicole Angela Pangilinan
Patrick Guerrero
Risha Cabrera

5th Grade
Chae Eun Kim
Julie Anne Chavez
Michael Mercado
Mya Pangelinan
Nyla Deleon Guerrero
Peige Morgan Tomokane
Seunghee (Audrey) Jeon

6th Grade
Andrei Kaithlyn Chavez
Ari James Toskas
Arturo Rodrigo Travilla
Audrein Jennifer Mallari
Breana Ysabel Patawaran
Carlos Joe Deleon Guerrero
Claire Regina Kautz
Davina Chae
Hitomi Rosa Sasamoto
Irene Kim
Irie Kane Camacho
Jada Chang
Lyssa Rae Steele
Nicole Erin Mariano
Princes Amanda Habal

7th Grade
Aiyana Jade Manglona
Andrew Sablan
Devin Jordan Propst
Elisha Joy Lacap
Ethan Jude Militante
Eunkyu (Joey) Hong
Franishia Jolie Babauta
Ierlyma Nicole Deleon Guerrero
Jan Marini Millo
Jazmin Jay Tagabuel
Jonathan Sheu
Kaitlyn Punzalan
Lezandra Miyuki Takayama
Mercedes Cruz
Minki Jung
Vicente Reyes

8th Grade
Derek Moritaro Sasamoto
Francine Monique Albuen
Jose Mafnas
Kexuan Yu
Kristan Rose Torres
Leo Naraja
Leunyce Regalado
Lynzey Green
Mathew Adrian Sablan
Moeisha Eleanor Cruz
O'Hane Borja
Sierra Rose Reyes
Sophia Michelle Cornelio

Freshmen
Alleah Marie Mendiola
Christian Felix Guerrero
Christopher Adam Mafnas
Cristina Bang
Esperanza Maria Milagro Castro
Hannah Lacap
HyunKyu Park
Jeffrey Sheu
Judy Bang
JunBeom Kim
Kaia Travilla
Kiana Lei Propst
Kwonjoon Ha
Monique Laura Duenas
Raesyl Gerard Solis
Richard Ramon Steele
Robin Kyle Alvarez
Sajj Pandey
SeongEon Heo
Taliyah Bocago
Theresa Rose Schweiger
William Nathaniel Ano

Sophomores
Brandee Hunter
Brian Youn
Carmille Perez
Jieyu Lin
Maria Ayuyu
Mateo Guerrero
Penelope Sablan
Puti'on Palacios-Camacho
Skyler Poon
Xavier Gatmaitan

Juniors
Bom (Emmeline) Lee
Casey Pathil
Francesca Marie Bucalig
Riley Anne Buenaventura
Sean Aaron Ancheta
Seongbin Heo
Vincent John Reyes

Seniors
Angelito Villarojas
Christine Mago
DongJean Jung
Earl Daivick Tabora
Eric Jang
Eunseo Choi
Gary Camacho
Jaeleen Naomi Aldan
Joanna Marie Pangelinan
Kalyn Diaz
Nichole Angelo Factor
(PR)

Tumon Bay Music Festival Feb. 28–March 9

Calling all musicians from Guam, the Marianas, and beyond.

It's the time of year for the largest music event in the region—the 2019 Tumon Bay Music Festival. It will be held from Feb. 28 to March 9, 2019 at various locations throughout Guam.

The festival includes:

- Choral festival – Feb. 28 and March 1
- Solo and small ensemble festival - March 2
- Pops concert "Jazz, Rock, & Beyond" - March 3
- Winds & Strings Festival - March 4 & 5
- Finale concert & award ceremony - March 9

This event is open to musicians and music groups of all ages and experience levels. The festival will also include seminars, workshops, school visits and will feature over 80 performances.

Apply online at tbmfguam.org. ***(PR)***

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Raffle Draw on February 4 2019 at 10 a.m.. Some restrictions may apply.

IDEAL SIGNS

McDonald's Saipan fetes employees

McDonald's Saipan recognized its employees during the fast-food company's recent Christmas party

Employee of the Year for its Middle Road branch was Rambo Robert, while Jeanette Keremius was named Employee of the Year for its Garapan Branch.

Employees of the Quarter (October, November, and December) was Kyle Merril Garcia for the Middle Road branch and Justthis Ayuyu for the Garapan branch.

Sergio Achas and Emmanuel L. Vital were also recognized for their 25 years of hard work and dedication to the company.

McDonald's Saipan acknowledged its "first responder employees" right after Super Typhoon Yutu. These staff reported to work right after the strongest typhoon to hit the U.S slammed into Saipan to open the store and serve customers.

Some staff were also recognized and awarded for their perfect attendance.

"Congratulations to all and keep up the good work from your McDonald's family," McDonald's Saipan said in a statement. ***(PR)***

McDonald's Saipan's "first responders."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Employees with perfect attendance.

Sergio Achas, 25-year awardee.

Emmanuel L. Vital, 25-year awardee.

Employees of the Quarters Kyle Merril Garcia (Middle Road Store) and Justthis Ayuyu (Garapan Branch).

Employee of the Year (Middle Road Store) Rambo Robert.

Employee of the Year (Garapan Branch) Jeanette Keremius.

VEHICLES FOR BID

"AS IS"

2005 NISSAN ALTIMA

2018 TOYOTA YARIS

Last day for bidding is January 31, 2019 at 3:00PM. For more information, please call Loans Department at 235-6260 ext. 123 or 124. The Bank reserves the right to refuse any and all bids.

VEHICLES FOR SALE

"AS IS"

2016 HYUNDAI ACCENT

2017 TOYOTA TACOMA 4X4

Financing available, see staff at Loans Department for details.

Bank of Saipan

Marianas Pride

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

RFP NO.: RFP19-BECQ/DCRM-038

SUBMISSION DATE: FEBRUARY 11, 2019 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"CNMI CORAL NURSERY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT FOR THE BUREAU OF ENVIROMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY, DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOCATED AT THE FORMER EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT OFFICE, ASCENCION DRIVE, BUILDING NO. 1301, CAPITOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS RFP **MUST** BE SUBMITTED VIA-EMAIL TO MR. DAVID BENEVENTE AT dbenavente@dcrm.gov.mp **NO LATER THAN THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS, JANUARY 28, 2019.**

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ ELI D. CABRERA
ADMINISTRATOR, BECQ

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, PROC. & SUPPLY

MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY

REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Marianas Visitors Authority hereby gives notice that a **Regular Board of Directors Meeting** will be held on **Tuesday, January 29, 2019, at 10:00 a.m.** in the Rota Mayor's Office Social Hall, Rota, MP 96951.

MEETING AGENDA

1) **Preliminary Matters**
   1. Call to Order
   2. Roll Call
   3. Adoption of Agenda
   4. Adoption of Minutes
      a. Regular Board Meeting – December 12, 2018
2) **Public Comments**
3) **Committee Reports**
   1. Finance –
      a. Fund Status Report – December 2018
   2. Personnel Committee
4) **New Business**
   1. Paseo de Marianas
   2. RFP for Banzai Cliff Flower Islands Beautification Project
   3. Product Development Updates on Rota
5) **Old Business**
6) **Executive Session**
7) **Miscellaneous/Announcements**
8) **Adjournment**

/s/ Marian Aldan-Pierce
Chairperson, MVA Board of Directors

CCLHS competition slated

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Chamorro and Carolinian Language and Heritage Studies cultural performance arts competition is scheduled for next month in Garapan.

CCLHS program manager for the Public School System, Jonas Barcinas, Wednesday noted that the 2nd Annual CCLHS cultural performance arts competition is slated for mid-February 2019 at the Garapan Elementary School.

Specifically, the competition would be held on Feb. 15, 2019 from 4pm to 7pm at GES and continues the next day from 8am to 4pm at the same campus.

"There are just nine categories [for the competition]," Barcinas said in an interview. He further noted that the categories did not change since the last competition last year.

The competition included categories to compete in such as the essay competition, poster competition, choral reading competition, the children's choir competition, a solo male and female competition, singing competition, contemporary dance competition, and traditional dancing competition.

He noted that about 520 participants all throughout the categories last year, consisting of elementary, middle school, and high school students from Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

Barcinas previously told *Saipan Tribune* that the completion was created to entice students from across the CNMI to embrace their Chamorro and Carolinian languages and heritage through songs, dances, poetry, and other forms of art.

"We hope that through this competition, it would help promote and preserve the indigenous heritage and cultural heritage of the Chamorro and Carolinian," he said, including other island cultures throughout the CNMI.

Compared to last year, Barcinas noted that he isn't expecting as much participants as last year because of the recent Super Typhoon Yutu.

"A lot of the schools are still struggling and we don't want to overwhelm them, so we highly encourage them try their best to participate in certain categories…but don't overwhelm the [students]," he said.

"We will do our very best to make sure the students represent their schools to the best of their ability and to enjoy and have fun," he continued.

DUA application submission deadline extended for CNMI

The CNMI Department of Labor announced it has re-extended the application submission deadline for Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA) for Typhoon Mangkhut (FEMA-4396-DR-MP) and Super Typhoon Yutu (FEMA-4404-DR-MP). The new deadline to apply for DUA is Feb. 14, 2019.

The DUA program provides payment relief and reemployment assistance to individuals who are unemployed as a direct result of a major disaster.

HOW AND WHERE TO APPLY

Claimants may apply for DUA either in person, by mail, or by phone. DUA applications and other forms may be obtained at either of the following location(s):

- **SAIPAN:** Bldg. 1334, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill, Saipan, MP 96950
- **ROTA:** Mayor's Office, Tatachog, Rota, MP 96951
- **TINIAN:** Edu's Plaza, 1st Floor, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952

Individuals applying by phone should have their social security number available when calling, along with the name and address of their last employer or prospective employer of record or basic information regarding their business, if self-employed. Phone applications can be made by calling any of the following numbers Monday through Friday between 9am through 3pm.

- **SAIPAN:** 670-788-4180, 670-788-4183, 670-788-4768, 670-788-4769, 670-664-3190, 670-322-0996
- **TINIAN:** 670-287-0411, 670-783-2005
- **ROTA:** 670-532-9479

Individuals who willfully conceal material facts or knowingly making false statement(s) to obtain DUA to which they are not entitled will be required to repay all benefits fraudulently collected and may be subject to prosecution under 18 U.S.C. 1001.

CNMI DOL is an equal opportunity employer/program and auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Visit CNMI DOL's website at www.marianaslabor.net for more DUA-related information. ***(PR)***

Achieve3000 2018 results expected next month

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A nationwide literacy competition usually launched toward the end of the year was hampered as recovery efforts followed Super Typhoon Yutu, but according to the Public School System, results might be expected next month.

Acting Education commissioner Jackie Quitugua noted in an interview Wednesday that although some challenges continue to plague PSS and their students, the Achieve3000 reading competition is still ongoing and that results of the competition may be expected within the next month.

"We have encountered some challenges with power, but options [and extensions] were given…[for] this competition," Quitugua said.

"We have yet to see what these results look like and hopefully by next month [we] would be able to see how [the competition] is coming along," she noted.

The Achieve3000 hosts literacy competitions for all levels of students. Specifically, they host competitions pertaining to reading and writing, and are usually done online.

"For the elementary level, we have decided to [use] paper and pencil—the traditional way of handling instruction," she said, noting that this was one of the options provided to her for the CNMI's participation.

"At the secondary level, we are encouraging the digital tools to be used since our children still access their phones and they can [participate in the competition] anytime and anywhere," she continued.

Both levels have been provided additional time extensions as what was recommended in respect to students who continue to struggle with the lack of power.

Achieve3000 seeks to promote literacy through providing comprehensive English and Spanish language support for struggling readers and is based in Lakewood, New Jersey.

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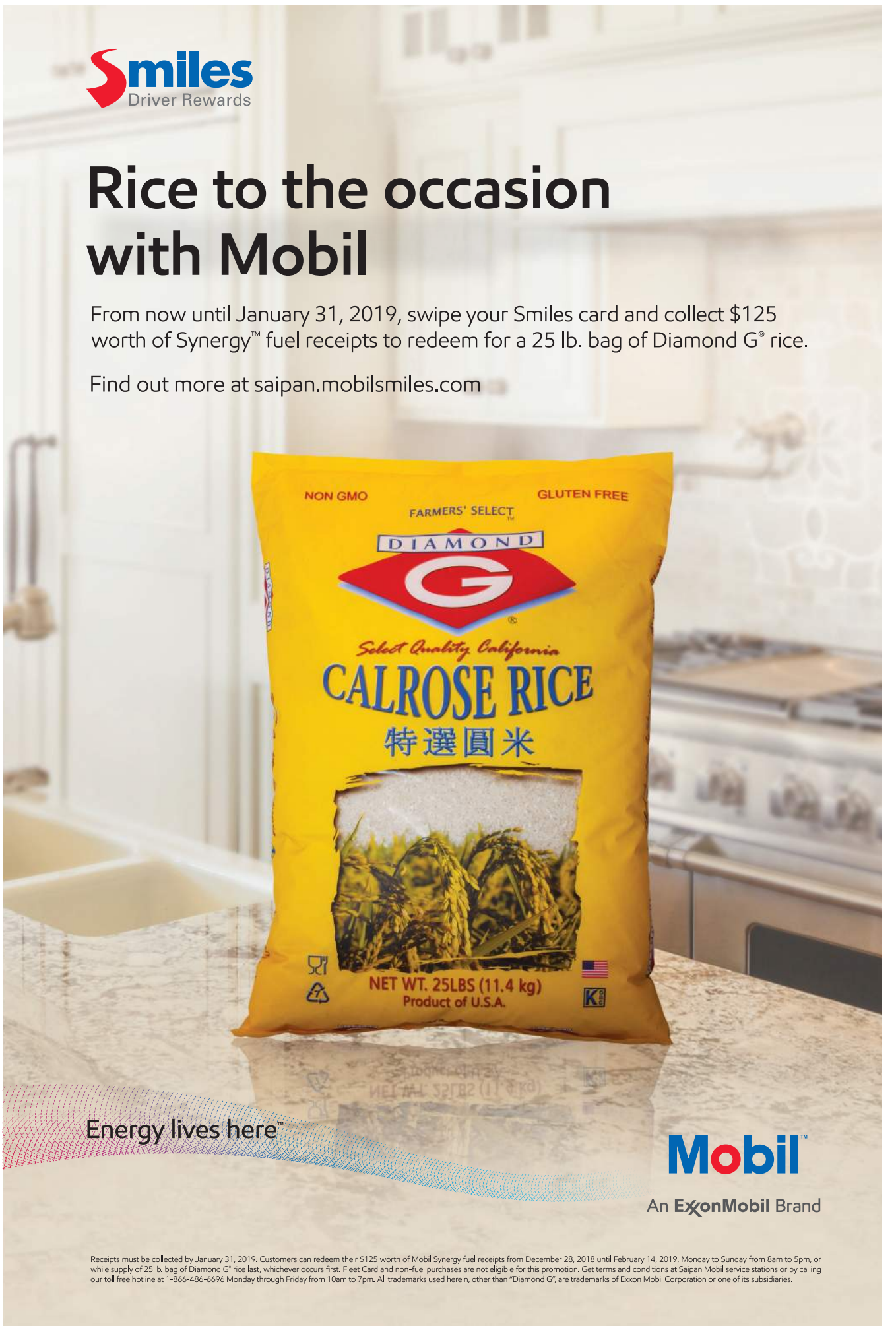
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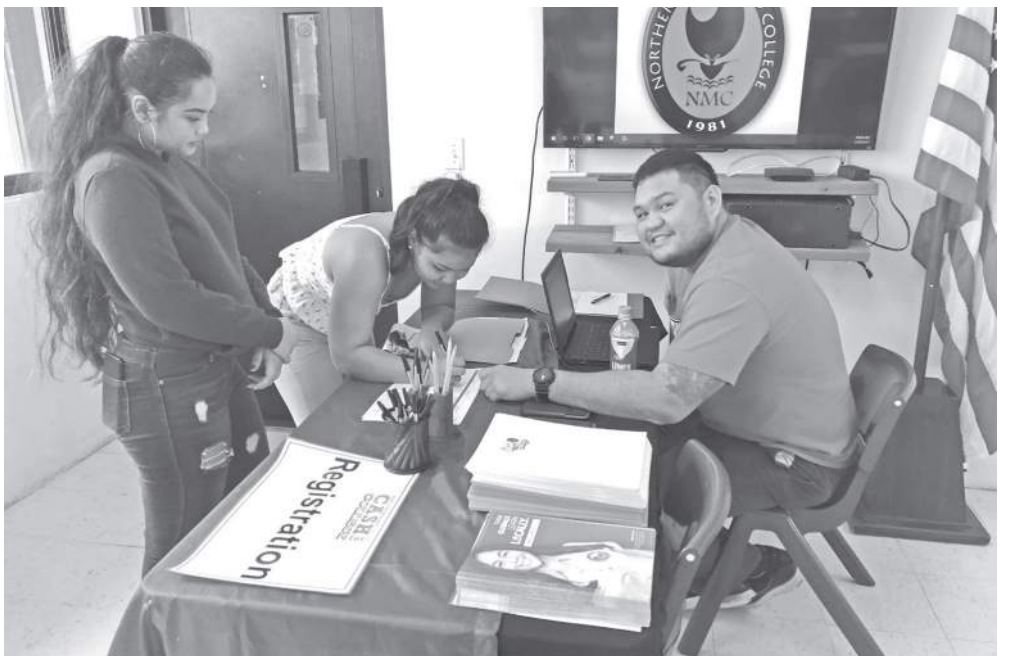
Receipts must be collected by January 31, 2019. Customers can redeem their $125 worth of Mobil Synergy fuel receipts from December 28, 2018 until February 14, 2019, Monday to Sunday from 8am to 5pm, or while supply of 25 lb. bag of Diamond G® rice last, whichever occurs first. Fleet Card and non-fuel purchases are not eligible for this promotion. Get terms and conditions at Saipan Mobil service stations or by calling our toll free hotline at 1-866-486-6696 Monday through Friday from 10am to 7pm. All trademarks used herein, other than "Diamond G", are trademarks of Exxon Mobil Corporation or one of its subsidiaries.

NMC's Cash for College on Saipan tomorrow

Northern Marianas College is reminding interested students and members of the community about the free "Cash for College" workshop happening tomorrow, Saturday, Jan. 26, 2019, at the As Terlaje Campus between Buildings N and O. The workshop will be an ongoing session, so participants can stop by anytime between 9am and before the end of the workshop at 12 pm.

Participants of the workshop will be provided with personal, step-by-step assistance in completing college financial aid forms, focusing especially on forms like the Free Application for Federal Student Aid, and application forms for CNMI Scholarship and Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) program.

Staff members from the College's Office of Admissions and Records will also be present to provide information and assistance with the NMC application process. In addition, those who participate in the workshop will qualify to have their NMC application fee and placement test fees waived for the upcoming Spring 2019 semester. This waiver represents a savings of up to $75.



NMC

Students on Rota recently attended Northern Marianas College's Cash for College workshop where they received help in finding money for college. The next Cash for College workshops will be held on Saipan on January 26 and Tinian on February 12, 2019. For more information about the workshops, contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at (670) 237-6792 or email daisy.propst@marianas.edu.

In addition, the College noted that the CNMI Scholarship Office and SHEFA program extended their application deadlines for Northern Marianas College students.

The new deadlines for CNMI Scholarship and SHEFA are:

- CNMI Scholarship Application: March 1, 2019
- CNMI Scholarship Supporting Documents: April 15, 2019
- SHEFA Application Deadline: Feb. 1, 2019
- SHEFA Supporting Documents: April 12, 2019

Although not required, it is recommended that workshop participants bring a valid form of identification (e.g., a valid U.S. passport, copy of valid application for a U.S. passport, birth certificate, or green card), an official transcript from high school (at least three official copies), Copy of 2017 and 2018 1040, Copy of 2017 and 2018 W-2 (if not filing), and proof of CNMI residency, including proof of continuing residency.

For additional information visit marianas.edu or contact the NMC Financial Aid Office at 237-6791 or email fao@marianas.edu. ***(PR)***

NMPASI at SHRM meeting today

The Society for Human Resource Management NMI Chapter's January general membership meeting will feature Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. project specialists Greg Borja and Elsie Tilipao.

These presenters will discuss Titles I & III of the Americans with Disabilities Act covering the topics of Employment and Public Accommodations (non-discrimination of people with disabilities in areas including employment, access to government programs and services, and access to services provided by public entities).

Today's general membership meeting will also include the installation of the 2019 NMI SHRM Board of Directors officiated by NMI Superior Court Associate Judge Teresa Kim-Tenorio.

SHRM NMI Chapter invites its members, associated HR and management staff, and interested members of the public to attend its next general membership meeting on Friday, Jan. 25, 2019, at PIC's Charley's Cabaret beginning at 11:30am.

This meeting is open to the public and will provide invaluable information for employers, Managers, and HR professionals and staff. The presentation includes the PIC lunch buffet at the cost of $20 for SHRM members and $30 for non-members. Seats are limited, so reserve your seat by contacting Penny Jones by e-mail at penelope.jones@hyatt.com or Denise Montenegro at denise.montenegro@hyatt.com or by telephone at 323-5867/68.

SHRM is the world's largest association devoted to human resource management. The society serves the needs of HR professionals and advances the interests of the HR profession. Founded in 1948, SHRM has more than 250,000 members in over 140 countries, and more than 575 affiliated chapters. The NMI chapter is affiliated with the national organization. For more information about the NMI Chapter, you can visit their website at http://nmi-chapter.shrm.org.

The NMI chapter is affiliated with the national organization. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH CASINO COMMISSION
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
P.O. Box 500237, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: 1 (670) 233-1857 • Fax: 1 (670) 233-1856
Email: info@cnmicasinocommission.com

AGENDA

Pursuant to the Open Government Act, Governor Ralph DLG. Torres, and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Commonwealth Casino Commission ("Commission"), hereby give notice that the Commission has scheduled its regular monthly meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. at the Technology Room of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library (JKPL), in Susupe, Saipan.

The following Agenda will be discussed:

I. PRELIMINARIES:
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes: December 27, 2018

II. REPORTS:
- A. Report by the Chairman
- B. Report by the Executive Director

III. PUBLIC COMMENTS

IV. MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS:
- A. Casino Licensee (IPI) Updates:
  1. Construction Progress – Imperial Pacific Resort & Hotel.
  2. IPI Personnel – Status of RIF, Resident Employment Objectives, & CLA Annual Plan.
  3. Responsible Gaming Program.
  4. Compliance Committee.
  5. Other Miscellaneous Matters.
- B. Other Matters.

V. OLD BUSINESS:
- A. House Bill 20-82, HD1, SD1

VI. NEW BUSINESS:
- **A. New Public Law (Public Law No. 20-85)** – "Prevention of Fraudulent Misuse of Financial Instruments in Casino Gaming and Other Transactions Act"
- **B. Consideration and Adoption of:**
  1. Order Approving the Commission's Proposed Standard Employment Contract and the Terms and Conditions Associated Therewith; and,
  2. Emergency Adoption and Adoption for Publication for Public Comment of Proposed Personnel Regulations.
- **C. Notification.** Issuance of Provisional Casino Vendor License – Non-Gaming (1-year):
  1. **SFH Furnishing Limited.** Supplier of Building Materials & Furnishing Products.
     Issued: 01/07/19; Provisional License Expiration: 01/06/20.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:
- A. IPI Financial Matters
- B. Report by the CCC Audit Division
- C. Report by the Legal Counsel
- D. Contract Renewal (Legal Counsel)

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

The Commission reserves the right to amend this agenda and take action on the amended agenda pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(b). Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Commission may vote to meet in Executive Session. In addition, the Commission may extend its official meeting for another day or more, if necessary.

Juan M. Sablan
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax (670) 234-5962
E-mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

PROCUREMENT, INSTALLATION & COMMISSIONING OF SECURITY CAMERAS AND SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM PORT OF SAIPAN, PROJECT NO. CPA-RFP-005-19

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement, installation & commissioning of security cameras and surveillance systems at the Port of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Proposal Package and other considerations will be available for pick up beginning **January 11, 2019** at the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd Floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

All proposals shall be sealed and marked on the cover package outside as follows: "Proposal for Procurement, Installation & Commissioning of Security Cameras and Surveillance System, Port of Saipan, Project No. CPA-RFP-005-19". One original and three copies of the proposal must be submitted no later than **4:00 p.m. LOCAL TIME, FEBRUARY 01, 2019** to the Office of the Executive Director at the Saipan International Airport. All Proposals shall become the property of the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

A pre-proposal conference will be held at the CPA Seaport Conference Room located at the Port of Saipan on **January 25, 2019 at 3:00 p.m.** Attendance at this pre-proposal conference is mandatory and only those vendors present at the pre-proposal conference will be allowed to submit proposals. A site visit will be conducted immediately after the conference or may be requested by making appointments with the CPA Ports Manager, Rodney James Taisacan to ensure that proposers submitting a proposal are aware of the general area where the surveillance cameras and systems are to be installed.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Request for Proposals; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejections or cancellations; or (c) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA.

CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said proposals if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

This Project is funded by the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

University of Guam's School of Nursing & Health Sciences. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Lian Nacianceno, left, a junior nursing student at the University of Guam's School of Nursing & Health Sciences, practices taking blood pressure on a dummy while Assistant Professor Annamma Varghese and senior nursing students Shanna Mendoza and Rheana Molinos look on.

UOG CNA program to start in February

The University of Guam's School of Nursing & Health Sciences and the Guam Department of Labor will begin a certified nursing assistant (CNA) training program in February to address this in-demand segment of the workforce. The Nursing Assistant Education Program will be the first one on island to offer a paid apprenticeship and guaranteed employment. It will be funded through federal grant money, meaning the program and the subsequent certification will be at no cost to the students.

» **New nursing assistant training program will be first to offer a paid apprenticeship**

Certified nursing assistants, commonly known as CNAs, work under the supervision of a registered nurse or licensed practical nurse preparing rooms and supplies, assisting with tests and procedures, and directly assisting patients.

The demand for CNAs on island and for CNA programs in the Pacific is growing, with 50 vacant positions for nursing assistants among the program's three participating employers — Guam Regional Medical City, Guam Memorial Hospital, and Health Services of the Pacific—alone.

"It's great exposure for people who may want to get into nursing but can't right now and also for people who want a second career," said Dean Margaret Hattori-Uchima of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences. "There are some people who want to go back into the workforce, so the CNA is a great program because they're guaranteed employment."

The Guam Board of Nurse Examiners approved the program in November.

The first cohort is expected to have 12 employees of GRMC and Health Services of the Pacific, or others in the community, who have an interest in the program. They will apprentice at GRMC and Health Services of the Pacific under CNAs. Future cohorts in the CNA training program will be selected by and will apprentice at GMH.

The Department of Labor will fund the students' materials, testing, and certifications through its recently awarded State Expansion Grant, which will provide apprenticeship opportunities to 100 individuals in needed areas of the workforce.

"We initially started with telecommunications and construction, and so we decided to do heavy concentration on allied health care," said Phyllis Topasna, program coordinator at the Guam Department of Labor. "It's the one industry that has heavy demand, and we wanted to make sure we utilize some of our funding to touch allied health."

The nursing assistant program will total 160 hours over three months.

"What's innovative about this nursing assistant program — other than the paid apprenticeship — is that it's more hours than what is required by the Board of Nursing," Hattori-Uchima said. "We're going above with 160 hours."

Those interested in participating in future cohorts need to have a high school diploma and an interest in becoming a CNA and can contact UOG Apprenticeship Coordinator Danilo Bilong at (671) 735- 2650 or dbilong@triton.uog.edu. ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIX, Issue No. 17

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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

Congress should solve the partial federal shutdown

The personal struggles of federal employees and other ill effects of the government shutdown are mounting, and will worsen when workers miss their second biweekly paycheck on Friday.

We're 33 days into the impasse created by President Donald Trump over border wall funding. And it's clear that only serious negotiations, with concessions by both sides, will end the impasse. It's time to stop this high-stakes chess match with real humans as the pawns. On Tuesday, Republican Majority Leader Mitch McConnell and Democratic Minority Leader Chuck Schumer announced that competing bills will be brought to votes in the Senate on Thursday. One largely reflects Trump's weekend offer of more protections for some immigrants in exchange for $5.7 billion in wall funding. The other would fund the government until Feb. 8 to allow further negotiations. As things stand, neither is likely to make it to Trump's desk.

Similarly, a House bill including Speaker Nancy Pelosi's new proposal for another $1.1 billion, on top of $1.3 billion already allocated for border security, to pay for 75 desperately needed immigration judges and more infrastructure at border ports of entry, probably will die in the Senate.

But the good news is that the rough parameters for a deal exist.

Trump's move—three years of protection for some immigrants brought here illegally as children, and for some African, Latin American and Caribbean immigrants given temporary protected status after fleeing natural disasters and other emergencies in their home countries — was disingenuous in that he was offering only to give back things, temporarily, that he has tried to take away. Trump's previous attempt to end the TPS program has been blocked in the lower courts. Nor does the language in the Senate bill seem to indicate a willingness to move off that position.

And in another development, the Supreme Court refused Tuesday to step into the battle over the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for "Dreamers," letting stand a ruling that Trump cannot end the program. This gives his opponents a stronger hand on this issue.

Like the Dreamers, TPS immigrants need a path to permanent status. If they have been here for years as law-abiding contributors to their communities, they deserve to stay. A real solution also must address our broken asylum system. Trump wants to severely restrict access to it, and one Senate bill includes language to do just that. Instead, the correct move is to administer the system efficiently and compassionately. Hire more judges to clear what's become a nightmarish backlog that has led asylum-seekers fleeing rampant violence at home to storm border fences in frustration.

Some wise heads in the Senate understand all this. The

See CONGRESS on Next Page

Loneliness is as bad for you as smoking

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is a board of trustees distinguished professor of English literature at University of Connecticut and the author of 10 books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.

Is it possible that loneliness is worse for you — and a harder habit to break — than smoking?

Maybe. The only way health and science experts could make the health crisis surrounding chronic loneliness more urgent would be to announce that loneliness makes Americans look fat, especially from behind.

The U.S. Surgeon General issued a report in 1964 making it clear to Americans that "cigarette smoking contributes substantially to mortality from certain specific diseases and to the overall death rate." In response, many smokers starting putting down their butts.

You know what's been proven to contribute substantially to mortality from specific diseases and to the overall death rate in 2019? Loneliness. The figure most often reported is that chronic loneliness has the same effect as smoking 15 cigarettes a day. So why, in response, aren't more of us getting off our butts and running out to hug our neighbors?

Some of you will explain, quietly and calmly, that you're introverts who value time alone and that this doesn't apply to you. You're entirely correct. Unlike chronic loneliness, a consciously chosen solitary life can be both satisfying and healthy.

Philosopher Paul Tillich made what I believe is the most concise distinction between loneliness and solitude when he wrote: "Our language has wisely sensed these two sides of man's being alone. It has created the word 'loneliness' to express the pain of being alone. And it has created the word 'solitude' to express the glory of being alone. Although, in daily life, we do not always distinguish these words, we should do so consistently and thus deepen our understanding of our human predicament."

Defining solitude? Think of Henry David Thoreau's journal entry: "The man I meet with is not often so instructive as the silence he breaks." And consider Cheryl Strayed's definition in "Wild": "Alone had always felt like an actual place to me, as if it weren't a state of being, but rather a room where I could retreat to be who I really was."

Unwilling loneliness, in contrast to solitude, is disorienting. Loneliness is where we cannot be who we really are. Instead, we lose perspective, lose our balance and no longer intuit where, precisely, the boundaries lie between the world and ourselves.

It's as if we become unwitting mimes, slapping against invisible walls that are imperceptible to everyone else but impossible for us to shatter.

Defining loneliness? Think of Carson McCullers' "The Member of the Wedding": "The trouble with me is that for a long time I have just been an I person. All people belong to a We except me. Not to belong to a We makes you too lonesome." Think of F. Scott Fitzgerald's "The Great Gatsby": "There's a loneliness that only exists in one's mind. The loneliest moment in someone's life is when they are watching their whole world fall apart, and all they can do is blink."

One of the oldest findings on loneliness involved children who were kept in an orphanage, without any adult touch or attention apart from being fed and kept clean. Their caretakers thought they were keeping the children from catching deadly infectious diseases but were surprised when the children died anyway. They lost the infants not to a familiar infection but from what became known as a "failure to thrive."

And I believe what's now being called an "epidemic of loneliness" is an adult version of the failure to thrive. Chronically lonely people at any age suffer from acute physical, psychological, intellectual and emotional deprivations.

The United Kingdom decided loneliness was serious enough to warrant a Commission on Loneliness.

"Epidemic" is not a word used lightly by those working in medicine, yet in 2017, former U.S. Surgeon General Vivek H. Murthy deemed loneliness an epidemic, arguing that "We live in the most technologically connected age in the history of civilization, yet rates of loneliness have doubled since the 1980s."

For all our Facebooking and messaging, we are in greater need of "likes" than we'd imagined. Attachment theories aren't metaphorical; human beings — actually, most higher mammals — need touch and closeness as much we need sleep.

So let's celebrate independence while understanding it doesn't mean alienation. Our survival depends on offering and accepting tenderness, which is the world's best offer to pass along a light.

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Tables with no legs

By ED STEPHENS JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Visit Ed Stephens Jr. at EdStephensJr.com. His column runs every Friday.

They say we shouldn't mix business life and personal matters, but some issues cut across both realms. For example, if you're ever felt a pang of concern when you misplaced your cell phone, or, worse yet, the thing managed to disappear entirely, you've probably worried about losing contact information that had both workplace and personal significance.

Although there are fancy ways to have that data backed up and restored, I steer for an easier "hack" for surviving modern life. This is the list-keeping power of word-processor tables. These tables are powerful tools but they seem to go overlooked, or at least unappreciated. Sad!

By contrast, spreadsheets, which are just a specific type of table, get all the attention when it comes to making lists. For many simple list-keeping tasks, though, a table made in a word-processing document is the better option.

If you poke around a typical word processor for a moment, you'll notice a menu for tables. In my word processors a table is created by going to a "table" menu, then selecting the option to "insert" a table. Various parameters are then chosen, such as how many rows you want the table to have and how many columns you want the table to have, and then you're in business. After that point, rows and columns can be added to, or deleted from, the table at will.

The specific commands used by specific programs are not really my purview here. I'm just interested in the broader design concepts.

If you're familiar with spreadsheets you'll know that one of their most important features is their ability to sort data. Well, tables can typically do the same thing. Here's an example: Let's say you make a table of all your contact information, so that the next time you lose your cell phone you've got a backup position.

Let's also say you had the foresight to include a field where you put, say, "P" for each personal contact, and "B" for each business contact. Then, at your whim, you can use a "sort" function to have the table re-organize itself in, say, alphabetical order of personal contacts, followed by alphabetical order of business contacts. Or, if you want, you can alphabetically sort it without regard to the distinction between personal and business contacts. You can do a lot of wizardry with sorting if you get creative.

So that's the basic idea of a table. Since I've been a list-geek for a long time, I will offer the following tips:

Tip No. 1: Always re-name these documents when you make changes to them. This practice helps ensure you've got a trail of bread crumbs in case you want to roll back to a prior version of the document.

About half the people I mention this to give me a blank stare in response, so if you wonder what the heck I'm talking about, well, don't worry, you're in good company.

Tip No. 2: You can format a page to have more than one column. A two-column layout is often doable. This uses space more efficiently if you're trying to squeeze things into as few pages as possible, but it only works if you've got very simple lists, for example, a two-element list of names and phone numbers.

Anyway, to set this up, first you format a document page into the number of columns you want. After that you insert a table. As long as the table has a sufficient number of rows (try 100 rows to see what happens), it will "flow through" the columns just like the words in a magazine flow through the columns.

Tip No. 3: It's often advisable to maintain a master list of contacts, and then derive a one-page printout of the most critical information. When I'm traveling I like to have key contacts, including credit card company phone numbers, safely within my pocket. One sheet of paper can make a big difference if circumstances turn sour.

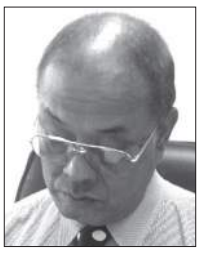
Tip No. 4: I've run out of space, so I'll have to share this tip later. It's sneaky and it's a great way to keep traction in Saipan's job market. Stay tuned.

In the meantime, we'll close today by circling back to the cell phone context. Even if you're comfortable keeping all your contact information locked into one of those things, not everybody is. For example, if you have elderly relatives, they might not mesh with cell phones at all. In these cases, it can be a good idea to print a list of key phone numbers that they can keep by their land-line phones.

The $14B challenge

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.



The combined loss of $14 billion from the local economy recently is quite a huge sum of money to dismiss casually and not when considered from its economic implications. It spells trouble when we're already some $31 million into deficit spending and mounting.

Understood the first half was the result of the dip of the local economy from the super storm that would take time to recover. The other is the permanent departure of Nippon investments from the islands.

This much money is no longer here for recycling so it generates more revenues for the NMI. Furthermore, it could very well compromise any plans to expand private industries and cuts on funds for services.

The emergence of a highly volatile financial and economic landscape from Nippon investment exit makes it mandatory that the situation is monitored critically. It boils down to the quality of life here.

Petrifying the implication of the latter decision that would slowly translate into serious economic contraction. How do we replace this loss other than wishful thinking in the la la land of mañana?

Would anyone dare promote the "ignorant but expensive" alternative like raising more taxes to make up for this loss? This route would be devastating especially for small businesses and the 15,000 employees earning poverty income level today.

On both Guam and the NMI Japanese-owned hotels and large investments have been sold to others. One wonders if this is permanent "sayonara" as they take their luggage to airplanes.

Here, it is rumored that the loss is rooted in offensive adolescent conversations from NMI officials uttered against major Nippon investors. It was local attitude taken to a new height of sheer intransigent arrogance gift-wrapped in immaturity.

Thus, the conversation we had with major investors turned sour as to prompt their leaving permanently. Is there a need to offend faithful friends who provided both wealth and innovation to help the NMI attain economic prosperity?

Beyond Nippon investments is there anything solid in the horizon to replace the huge investment exit and financial void? It's $14 billion, people!

Ke sera: Or maybe things are far better off in terms of our financial posture thus the apparent ignorance wrapped in adolescent arrogance.

But two significant indicators seem to compromise assumptions of financial security: departure of major Nippon investors and the drop in the economy from the devastation of a super storm. The combined phenomena indicate the cumulative loss of about $14 billion.

Indeed, we once had investment-led growth that took a painful shift when the same investments slowly exited the islands leaving behind mediocre consumption and services. Nippon investment is gone. It's basically history!

Numbers on this score matters to me in that it determines quality of life in these isles. Bankruptcy riding atop fragile island economic foundation isn't an issue to chance at all. But we conveniently ignored it with the usual mañana.

The huge dip is a definite lesson that no matter our historically innovative or powerful investments may have been we're not guaranteed immortality. As such we must retreat and seriously reassess strengthening relations with key investors.

Again, no one is guaranteed immortality! Apparently, we don't even have the depth of perception to notice significant revenue losses so we reset and save the NMI from total economic ruination.

Too big: We had a robust economy and boasted it's "too big to fail? It did! Was the investment loss related to business management or more so other vital issues we rendered arrogance in the process? It had to be our immaturity handling casual or formal discourse where we simply ignored the importance of strengthening relationships with lasting partners.

Is the elected elite wary of this woefully troubling shift on investments? What's your interpretation of their economic implications and is there anything under your sleeves that could realistically cushion major financial losses to the tune of $14 billion?

Is the NMI fiscally robust with a strong reserve for its needs? Aren't we already into deficit spending with several agencies wobbling in the filthy swamp of underfunding? Isn't this indicative of fund shortage?

The seesaw swing of the economy offers a micro view of the painful process the NMI must make rebalancing what's left of its economy if any.

With self-inflicted ignorance is there a way out of the $14-billion loss?

Exclusion:The exclusion of the NMI on H-2B workers would impact heavily on basically everything here from workers to disruption of services at all levels.

It's a Trump policy whether we like or loathe him. He doesn't show any battle fatigue at all neither is his democratic and media enemies.

For now, it would be a lively and rambunctious two years ahead. His immigration concerns at the southern border overwhelms our little and irrelevant H-2B visa.

CONGRESS

From Page 14

two-vote plan seems designed to fail. That's OK. Then McConnell should empower senators from both parties who want to craft a bipartisan deal to do so and put that up for a vote. Let Trump veto it, but if both the House and the Senate want to end this stalemate, they can lead the nation by overriding his veto.

No one is going to be completely happy with whatever the resolution is, but that's the essence of compromise. And it beats the pain being doled out now, both at home and on the border.

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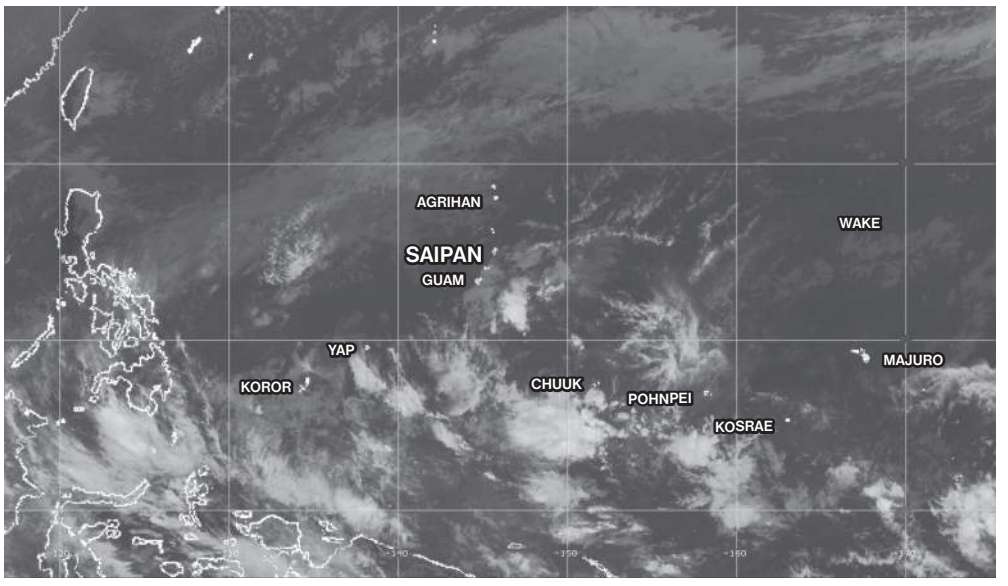
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly sunny with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with scattered showers.	Mostly cloudy and breezy with isolated showers.
87° 77°	87° 77°	87° 77°	88° 77°	87° 77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 9:29 AM, THURSDAY, JANUARY 24, 2019

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

The weak trough we had been monitoring is nearing our longitude now. As we had started to suspect yesterday, most of the showers are just sliding by to the south. Retained partly sunny with isolated showers, and it looks that is going to work out just fine. The main event for this forecast package is early next week. The GFS and the ECMWF both bring a shear line down from the north, increasing showers and wind, along with clouds of course. This renewed north swell could also bring down another round of Portuguese man-o-war, will have to handle that if and when we get reports though. The showers are mainly expected Sunday night and Monday, with the winds Monday through Wednesday.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Showers	85° / 76°
Palau	Thunderstorms	83° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	85° / 78°
Chuuk	Cloudy	84° / 79°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Kosrae	Cloudy	85° / 78°
Majuro	Cloudy	85° / 80°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Sunny	73° / 63°
Beijing	Sunny	43° / 21°
Hong Kong	Sunny	68° / 57°
Honolulu	Showers	83° / 68°
London	Showers	46° / 45°
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	75° / 50°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 72°
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	79° / 61°
Miami	Mostly Cloudy	68° / 61°
New York	Partly Cloudy	37° / 22°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	43° / 36°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	34° / 28°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	48° / 28°
Rome	Showers	52° / 36°
Salem	Sunny	50° / 27°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	61° / 49°
Seoul	Sunny	37° / 16°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	48° / 36°
Washington, DC	Mostly Sunny	38° / 23°

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
4:44 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.31
11:28 AM	HIGH TIDE	2.07
5:35 PM	LOW TIDE	0.81
10:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.78

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:47 AM	6:11 PM
Saturday	6:46 AM	6:11 PM
Sunday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Monday	6:46 AM	6:12 PM
Tuesday	6:46 AM	6:13 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	10:04 AM	10:22 PM
Saturday	-	10:49 AM	11:18 PM
Sunday	-	11:32 AM	-
Monday	12:13 AM	12:15 PM	-
Tuesday	1:06 AM	12:59 PM	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 21, 2019

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily
UA105	6:25pm	7:05pm	2, 4

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:40pm	2 via GUM
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	4 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA104	4:50pm	5:31pm	2, 4

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4 via GUM
UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Exercise Sea Dragon concludes

Crew of three U.S. and one Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) P-8A Poseidons that took part in Exercise Sea Dragon pose for a group photo.
CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE, Guam—Three U.S. and one Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) P-8A Poseidons from three squadrons along with one Los Angeles-class attack submarine completed operations from 2019 Exercise Sea Dragon Jan. 22.

Exercise Sea Dragon is an annual, multilateral exercise that stresses anti-submarine warfare (ASW) prosecution. This year's exercise was conducted out of Andersen Air Force Base, Guam. Participating U.S. units were Patrol Squadron (VP) 47, VP-16, both operating under Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72, and Commander, Submarine Squadron (CSS) 15, operating under CTF-74. CTF-72 lead and oversaw the exercise. Squadron 11 from RAAF as well as service members from the Republic of Korea Navy (ROKN) joined U.S. units throughout the exercise.

"Sea Dragon 2019 was a huge success" said Lt. Cmdr. Aaron Roberts, Commander, Task Force (CTF) 72 Exercise Sea Dragon Officer in Charge. "The exercise allowed participants to refine their ASW skills while exposing them to unique differences between each squadron."

Respectively, four U.S. aircrews and one RAAF aircrew, along with ROKN service members observing operations as passengers, executed over 20 sorties and 80 operational hours, advancing through multiple levels of ASW proficiency, with support from Mobile Tactical Operations Center (MTOC) 1, over the eight days of the exercise.

"It was an invaluable opportunity for our junior operators to train on a live submarine," said Roberts. "You cannot always replicate this type of training in a simulator."

During the exercise, U.S. and RAAF aircrew coordinated ASW prosecution against both simulated and live targets to include a Los Angeles-class attack submarine assigned to CSS-15.

"This exercise provides our Los Angeles-class submarines the opportunity to work and train with the Marine Patrol and Reconnaissance Aircraft of the RAAF in an effort to increase our readiness and lethality in the region," said Capt. Timothy Poe, CSS-15.

Additional to the joint units conducting the exercise, many other U.S. entities were involved during the many developmental and implemental stages of the exercise.

"I appreciate all the planning and execution from CTF-74, Marianas Island Range Complex, Anderson AFB, MTOC 1, and U.S. Naval Undersea Warfare Center, whose hard work made this exercise possible," said Roberts. "CTF-72 looks forward to hosting this exercise again in 2020 and expanding it to more partners and allies in the future."

Exercise Sea Dragon illustrates that the U.S. and partner nations stand ready to ensure the freedom of navigation and the free flow of commerce wherever international law allows.

"The American-Australian alliance is rock solid and based on a common purpose: to promote peace and prosperity," said Poe. "Our friendship is underpinned by a deep alignment of interests and our societies' shared commitment to the values of freedom and democracy. We are committed to fostering an Indo-Pacific region where all countries abide by international law."

The United States looks forward to taking part in forging stronger relations, safeguarding safe and established maritime zones, and ensuring safe sea lanes.

"A free, open, and prosperous rules-based order in the Indo-Pacific region is in our nations' enduring national interests and reflect our shared commitment to a region based on these convergent principles," said Poe.

CTF-72 leads patrol, reconnaissance and surveillance forces in support of U.S. 7th Fleet (C7F), promoting regional security and enhancement of theater security operations through multilateral engagements to build reconnaissance and surveillance capability within C7F and partner forces.

For more information, contact the Joint Region Marianas Public Affairs Office at (671) 349-4055/3209. ***(PR)***

NAVFAC Pacific awards contract for Guam training areas

JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR-HICKAM—Naval Facilities Engineering Command (NAVFAC) Pacific awarded a $149 million firm-fixed price contract to design and construct three training areas at Andersen Air Force Base, Guam, Jan. 23.

The contract is funded by the Government of Japan as part of the International Agreement between the United States and Japan.

The first training area will include a Combat Vehicle Operators Course (CVOC). Improvements include site clearing, grubbing and grading and the construction of a serpentine road system and multiple obstacles forming the CVOC.

The second training area will include a hand grenade range, live fire shoot house, and breacher facility. The hand grenade range is to include a familiarization course, throwing lanes, grenade shoot house, and ancillary observation and supporting structures. A Shoot House After Action Review (AAR) building is to support training review in the Shoot House. Electrical and communications utilities will be provided to support these facilities.

The third training area will include a range warehouse, area distribution node, and communication tower. An existing residential neighborhood will be used as a Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) training facility. A MOUT AAR building will also be included, which will require electrical, communications, water, and sewer utilities. The work will include selective repairs to existing buildings and construction of multiple types of buildings such as an embassy, hotel, or school.

The $149,463,478 contract was awarded to Core Tech—HDCC—Kajima, LLC of Tamuning, Guam.

Work is expected to be completed by November 2022. ***(PR)***

Naval Base Guam to require REAL ID for base access

SANTA RITA, Guam—As part of a continuing effort to improve the safety and security on U.S. Naval Base Guam (NBG) while also providing access to authorized patrons, the following base access changes will take place effective Feb. 4.

All individuals requesting access to NBG properties must present a REAL ID compliant Identification Card when applying for access at the Visitor Control Center. Personnel who do not have a REAL ID may request base access by presenting a valid U.S. passport as an authorized alternate identification.

This requirement will impact individuals including: guests, contractors, vendors, service providers, and any other non-Department of Defense ID cardholders.

Guam had an extension for REAL ID enforcement, allowing federal agencies to accept driver's licenses and identification cards from Guam at federal facilities, including military bases, according to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security website. The extension ended Jan. 10, 2019. NBG has allowed for a transition period of Feb. 4, 2019 to inform customers of this change.

Passed by Congress in 2005, the REAL ID Act enacted the 9/11 Commission's recommendation that the Federal Government "set standards for the issuance of sources of identification, such as driver's licenses." The Act established minimum security standards for state-issued driver's licenses and identification cards and prohibits federal agencies from accepting for official purposes licenses and identification cards from states that do not meet these standards. REAL IDs require applicants to submit more documents to prove their identity, including a proof of birth, citizenship, and residency.

For a full list of documents, you can use to apply for a REAL ID go to https://www.guamtax.com/help/realIDpolicy.html.

Additionally, NBG VCC will be making several changes to the policies and procedures in Guest Services. One such change will be that guest passes for weekend access will only be issued on Friday. Information on other changes will be posted at VCC Guest Services.

The NBG VCC Guest Services hours of operation are Monday to Friday, 9am to 3:30pm.

The NBG VCC Contractor Services hours of operation are Monday, Tuesday, Thursday, and Friday: 6:30am to 4:30pm and Wednesday from 7am to 3pm.

Both Contractor and Guest Services are closed on Weekends and Federal Holidays.

For more information, contact the Naval Base Guam Public Affairs Office at (671) 339-2663. ***(PR)***

FOR MARIANA ISLANDS RANGE COMPLEX PROGRAMMATIC AGREEMENT

JRM, stakeholders begin Section 106 consultations

ASAN, Guam—Joint Region Marianas will start Section 106 consultations with stakeholders in Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for the 2009 Mariana Islands Range Complex Programmatic Agreement.

Consultations will occur in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the following dates, times and locations:

- Thursday, Jan. 24 from 4-7pm at Kanoa Resort
- Friday, Jan. 25 from 10am to 12:30pm at the Saipan Mayor's Office

In accordance with established processes and procedures required under the National Historic Preservation Act, this effort is aimed at ensuring open dialogue with stakeholders to develop a new MIRC PA.

In February, public meetings will be held where all interested individuals may engage directly with Navy environmental subject matter experts on the proposed supplement to the 2015 Mariana Islands Training and Testing environmental impact statement. More information will be shared with the community as soon as it is available.

Contact the JRM or NAVFAC Marianas Public Affairs Offices at 349-2113 or 349-4053, for more information. ***(PR)***

Business

Govt shutdown poses increasing risk to wider economy

WASHINGTON (AP)—At this time of year, John Sprinkle and his wife would normally be planning their summer vacation. Not now. Sprinkle, a furloughed federal employee, is about to miss his second paycheck since the partial government shutdown began just before Christmas.

With no end in sight to the longest shutdown in American history, Sprinkle and his family are postponing all manner of spending.

"We were thinking of getting a new computer, but that's not going to happen," he said. "We're not really eating out like we normally would be. We are not going out to events like we would be."

Multiply those decisions by 800,000 federal employees across the country and hundreds of thousands of government contractors who aren't being paid either, and the shutdown looms as an accelerating threat to the wider economy.

The shutdown's biggest effect on the economy is likely to be the cutback in federal spending. But consumer spending, which is critical to growth, is another important factor.

When government employees spend less, stores and restaurants that serve them suffer. So do landlords and lenders that do business with federal workers. Though spending and growth will rebound once the government reopens, most of the restaurant meals missed and hotel stays canceled will never be made up.

"Creditors and suppliers hit by the shutdown will become less patient if it drags on," Ian Shepherdson, chief economist at Pantheon Macroeconomics, said in a research note. "People and businesses are being hurt by the shutdown, and the pain will intensify."

If the shutdown drags on through March, annual economic growth could fall to zero in the first three months of the year. Even if the government reopens by the end of the month, the annual pace of growth could be a meager 1.6 percent—only half the pace of last quarter, said Sal Guatieri, senior economist at BMO Capital Markets.

Kevin Hassett, a top White House economist, acknowledged in an interview on CNN that growth could be flat in the first quarter, though Hassett suggested that a "humongous" rebound would follow. Yet some independent economists doubt that the rebound would be enough to offset the initial damage. The economy is already bedeviled by slowing global growth, ongoing trade tensions and higher interest rates, which contributed to a plunge in home sales last month.

Bernard Baumohl, chief economist at the Economic Outlook Group, suggested that once the government reopened, many households would focus on repaying credit card debt and restoring lost savings—trends that would slow the rebound.

For now, there are hints that the shutdown is slowing retail sales. A measure of weekly chain store sales fell 1.3 percent last week, its second straight drop. Cold weather likely contributed to the fall, said Michael Niemira, chief economist at the consulting firm Retail Economist, but the shutdown may also have contributed.

It's hard to know just how much the shutdown is depressing consumer spending because the Commerce Department, which compiles and reports such data, was itself closed by the shutdown.

Anecdotal evidence, though, suggests that the trend is spreading. Even federal workers with solid finances are holding back. Sprinkle, who lives in Alexandria, Virginia, knows he will eventually be paid, and his wife is still earning a paycheck. Their two children are out of the house, in college, and he knows he could borrow against his home equity if he had to.

Still, "the effect is more psychological," he said.

AP

TSA employees Princess Young, left, and Erica Gibbs load food into a car after visiting a food pantry for furloughed government workers affected by the federal shutdown, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Baltimore.

Canadian ambassador: Huawei exec could avoid US extradition

TORONTO (AP)—Canada's ambassador to China said he thinks a top Chinese executive has a strong case to avoid extradition to the United States and said he hopes she will be released soon in remarks one of his predecessors called "mind-boggling."

Ambassador John McCallum told Chinese language media in Markham, Ontario, on Tuesday that Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou has "quite good arguments," including "political involvement by comments from Donald Trump on her case."

Canada arrested the daughter of Huawei's founder at the request of the U.S. on Dec. 1. Meng is wanted on fraud charges that she misled banks about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Trump said last month he would be willing to abandon the Meng case in pursuit of a trade deal with Beijing. That led some to suggest the case has been politicized and the U.S. is loosening its commitment to the rule of law and an independent judiciary.

"I think she has some strong arguments that she can make before a judge," said McCallum, who is an economist.

McCallum also listed two other arguments Meng could use before a judge. If she is extradited to the U.S., the ambassador said, "That would not be a happy outcome."

"And that would take years before it happens because she would have the right to appeal all the way to the Supreme Court of Canada."

McCallum also said the U.S. could make a deal with China in which it would no longer seek her extradition, and two Canadian detained in China could then be released.

The case has severely damaged Beijing's relations with Ottawa. China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor on Dec. 10 in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng. A Chinese court also sentenced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.

Huawei has close ties to China's military and is considered one of the country's most successful international enterprises, operating in the high-tech sphere where China hopes to establish dominance.

"President Xi Jinping was very angry about this and so others in the Chinese government have taken the lead from him," McCallum said. "I don't know exactly why. Maybe it's because Huawei is a national flagship company of China. It's not just any company."

David Mulroney, Canada's former ambassador to China, called McCallum's remarks "mind-boggling."

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Verizon cutting about 800 jobs in troubled media business

NEW YORK (AP)—Verizon is cutting about 800 jobs, or 7 percent of its media and advertising employees, as it reorganizes the troubled division. The wireless company had hoped to create an ad business that could compete with Google and Facebook. It spent roughly $10 billion buying up former Internet pioneers Yahoo and AOL . But Verizon found benefits from integrating those two companies were less than expected. The company slashed the value of its media unit by nearly $5 billion in December. The new CEO of Verizon's media division, Guru Gowrappan, informed employees of the layoffs in an email Wednesday. He says the division's priorities will now include focusing on mobile and video products and stemming declines with desktop users.

PG&E: Judge's proposals for fire risk could cost up to $150B

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Proposals by a U.S. judge to prevent Pacific Gas & Electric Co. equipment from causing more wildfires would endanger lives, could cost as much as $150 billion and would interfere with the work of federal and state regulators, the utility said Wednesday in a court filing urging the judge not to impose the measures. PG&E said it's committed to system upgrades and wildfire prevention but contended that a criminal case being handled by U.S. District Judge William Alsup was not the right forum to address such measures. Earlier this month, Alsup proposed ordering PG&E to remove or trim all trees that could fall onto its power lines, poles or equipment in high-wind conditions and to document its inspections and work. He also proposed ordering PG&E to reinspect its entire electric grid and to cut off power during certain wind conditions regardless of the inconvenience to customers or loss of profit. The legal arguments came as PG&E is facing hundreds of lawsuits from wildfire victims over catastrophic California wildfires in the past two years that killed scores of people and destroyed thousands of homes.

Ford posts quarterly loss amid struggles in Europe, China

DEARBORN, Mich. (AP)—Ford Motor Co., which has struggled overseas and saw U.S. sales fall last year, reported its first quarterly net loss in two years Wednesday. The Dearborn, Michigan, company said it lost $116 million, or 3 cents a share, in the fourth quarter, compared with a $2.52 billion profit a year earlier. It last posted a quarterly loss in the fourth quarter of 2016. The loss included an $877 million one-time charge to revalue global pension assets due to a late-year market slide. Ford made $3.68 billion for the full year, but that was only about half of what its net profit was in 2017. North America was its only profitable region. "It's not a year that we were happy with," Chief Financial Officer Bob Shanks told reporters. "I think the fourth quarter kind of continued in that theme." The annual and fourth-quarter performances sent company executives scrambling to explain to Wall Street analysts why it was taking so long to restructure and roll out new products that could increase sales and profits.

STOCK PORTFOLIO

LEADING INDICATORS

DOW	S&P	NASDAQ
24,575.62	2,638.70	7,025.77
+171.14	+5.80	+5.41
+0.70%	+0.22%	+0.77%

EXCHANGE RATES

In U.S. dollar terms

Australian Dollar	1.4063	Hong Kong Dollar	7.8459	Russian Ruble	66.0514
British Pound	0.7647	Indian Rupee	70.5748	Singapore Dollar	1.3590
Canadian Dollar	1.3350	Japanese Yen	109.5840	South Korean Won	1110.27
Chinese Yuan	6.6652	Malaysian Ringgit	4.0937	Swiss Franc	0.9943
Euro	0.8781	New Zealand Dollar	1.4763	Taiwan Dollar	30.3883
		Philippine Peso	51.7511	Thailand Baht	31.6765

Nation

Trump says he'll give State of Union after shutdown ends

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Donald Trump said Wednesday night he is postponing his State of the Union address until the partial government shutdown ends, yielding after a weeklong showdown with House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

Following a high-stakes game of dare and double-dare, Trump conceded that "no venue that can compete with the history, tradition and importance of the House Chamber" and that he was not looking for an alternate option after Pelosi served notice earlier Wednesday that he won't be allowed to deliver the address to a joint session of Congress next week.

Pelosi had taken the step after Trump said he planned to show up in spite of Democratic objections to the speech taking place with large swaths of the government shut down.

Denied that grand venue, Trump promised to come up with some sort of alternative event. The White House scrambled to find a site matching the gravitas of the traditional address from the rostrum of the House to lawmakers from both parties, Supreme Court justices, invited guests and a television audience of millions.

"As the Shutdown was going on, Nancy Pelosi asked me to give the State of the Union Address. I agreed," Trump tweeted. "She then changed her mind because of the Shutdown, suggesting a later date. This is her prerogative - I will do the Address when the Shutdown is over."

Fireworks over the speech shot back and forth between the Capitol and the White House as the monthlong partial government shutdown showed no signs of ending and about 800,000 federal workers faced the prospect of going without their second paycheck in a row come Friday.

Pelosi told Trump the House wouldn't approve a resolution allowing him to address Congress until the shutdown ended. Trump shot back that Pelosi was afraid of hearing the truth.

"I think that's a great blotch on the incredible country that we all love," Trump said earlier Wednesday. "It's a great, great horrible mark."

The drama surrounding the State of the Union address began last week when Pelosi asked Trump to make other plans but stopped short of denying him the chamber for his address. Trump called her bluff Wednesday in a letter, saying he intended to come anyway.

"It would be so very sad for our Country if the State of the Union were not delivered on time, on schedule, and very importantly, on location," he wrote.

Pelosi quickly squelched the speech, writing back that the House "will not consider a concurrent resolution authorizing the President's State of the Union address in the House Chamber until government has opened."

The president cannot speak in front of a joint session of Congress without both chambers' explicit permission. A resolution needs to be approved by both chambers specifying the date and time for receiving an address from the president.

The gamesmanship unfolded as the Senate prepared to vote this week on dueling proposals on the shutdown. A Republican one would give Trump money for the wall while one from Democrats would re-open government through Feb. 8, with no wall money, giving bargainers time to talk about it.

Both proposals were likely to fail to reach the 60-vote threshold needed in the Senate, where Republicans hold a 53-47 majority. As well, House Democrats were putting forward a new proposal, aiming to lure Trump away from his demand for a border wall by offering billions of new dollars for other border security measures.

The Constitution states only that the president "shall from time to time give to the Congress Information of the State of the Union," meaning the president can speak anywhere he chooses or give his update in writing. The address has been delayed before.

AP

President Donald Trump, center, reacts as he is told by a reporter that House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of Calif., said the Democratically controlled House won't pass the required measure for him to make the State of the Union address at the Capitol until after the government is fully opened, during a healthcare roundtable in the Roosevelt Room of the White House, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in Washington.

DACA recipients see little reason to hope in latest proposal

PHOENIX (AP)—Daniel Briones has a degree in economics and a job in banking, but his future could not feel less certain.

The 30-year-old in San Marcos, Texas, is a recipient of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program for immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children but don't have legal status here.

President Donald Trump's latest plan to reopen the federal government would extend the program's protections for another three years, but the idea is likely dead on arrival and no one knows what comes next.

Commonly referred to as "dreamers," the recipients of the Obama-era program known as DACA have spent nearly five years dealing with constant threats to the system, which changed their lives by allowing them to work legally and shielding them from deportation. It has been challenged in lawsuits and congressional legislation. Then came Trump's announcement in 2017 that he was ending it altogether, although the federal courts nixed that plan.

The fate of about 700,000 dreamers hangs in the balance, and many say they are growing weary of being pawns in every political battle over immigration.

"I think they don't really understand how we feel, or the uncertainty. They want to play back-and-forth politics and try to use us as a means for change. But at the same time, they don't feel how we are feeling," Briones said.

"It's really hard for us to be able to wake up every day and go to work every day knowing we don't know even know what's going to happen in the future," he said.

Trump proposes to extend the program for three years but only for those currently enrolled and with drastic changes that advocates regard as non-negotiable. Democrats also dismissed the offer.

A Senate GOP bill introduced last weekend would require recipients to reapply while also doubling the cost of applying. Applicants would have to prove they earn at least 125 percent of the poverty level while in the U.S. and to pay back tax credits that they legally obtained while working. The bill would also severely restrict asylum and temporary protected status.

"The 'deal' that Trump proposed over the weekend is no deal at all. Trump created a horrific crisis, and this bill is Stephen Miller's ransom note," said Sanaa Abrar, advocacy director for United We Dream, referring to a senior Trump adviser.

For Maxima Guerrero, a Phoenix activist who has had DACA protections since 2013, the court challenges, the politics and the perpetual debate involving the program has taken an emotional toll.

Police: 5 fatally shot inside Florida bank, suspect arrested

SEBRING, Fla. (AP)—A gunman opened fire inside a Florida bank Wednesday, killing five people before surrendering to a SWAT team, police said.

The shooter called police to report that he had fired shots inside the bank in Sebring, in central Florida. Negotiations failed to persuade the barricaded man to leave the building. The SWAT team then entered the bank, and the gunman eventually gave up, police said.

Investigators did not offer a possible motive, and a police spokesman said he did not know if the attack began as a robbery. The victims were not immediately identified.

"Today's been a tragic day in our community," Sebring Police Chief Karl Hoglund told a news conference. "We've suffered significant loss at the hands of a senseless criminal doing a senseless crime."

Authorities identified the suspect as 21-year-old Zephen Xaver, who was arrested at the SunTrust branch, Hoglund said.

Xaver briefly was an online student of Salt Lake City-based Stevens-Henager College. A spokeswoman for the college, Sherrie Martin, confirmed that Xaver was enrolled from September 2018 until December, when he withdrew. She said his residence was listed as Sebring.

Florida Department of Corrections records show that Xaver was hired as a trainee prison guard at Avon Park Correctional Institution on Nov. 2 and resigned Jan. 9. No disciplinary issues were reported.

Gov. Ron DeSantis was in the region for an infrastructure tour and traveled to Sebring after the shooting. He said the Florida Department of Law Enforcement would assist Sebring police and the Highlands County sheriff's office.

"Obviously, this is an individual who needs to face very swift and exacting justice," DeSantis said of the suspect.

An FBI mobile command unit arrived at the bank Wednesday evening to join the investigation.

Late Wednesday, police investigators still swarmed the bank, which sits between a hotel and a hair salon located in a business district of U.S. 27. The four-lane highway passes through farming communities and small towns as it connects South Florida and central Florida.

Meanwhile, police had wrapped up work at Xaver's nicely maintained, pre-fabricated home about 4 miles (6.5 kilometers) from the bank.

John Larose, who lives next door to Xaver's home, said Xaver and his mother had moved in several months ago. Xaver kept to himself, but Larose said he could hear Xaver playing and yelling at video games in the middle of the night.

SunTrust Chairman and CEO Bill Rogers released a statement saying the bank was "working with officials and dedicating ourselves to fully addressing the needs of all the individuals and families involved."

Asia

North Korea says Kim ordered preparations for 2nd Trump meet

AP

In this Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, photo provided on Thursday, Jan. 24, 2019 by the North Korean government, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, right, meets Kim Yong Chol, who traveled to Washington to discuss denuclearization talks, in Pyongyang, The North's Korean Central News Agency said Thursday that Kim Jong Un received a letter from U.S. President Donald Trump from the North Korean envoy who travelled to Washington and met Trump last week.

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has ordered preparations for a second summit with President Donald Trump, saying he'll "wait with patience and in good faith" to work toward a common goal, the North's state media reported Thursday.

Despite Kim's determination for another meeting with Trump, the two remain at odds over fundamental issues. Experts say a major sticking point is what denuclearization steps Kim should take to move forward stalled nuclear diplomacy and what rewards Trump should provide to push Kim to take those measures.

The Korean Central News Agency said Kim received a letter from Trump from a North Korean envoy who met the U.S. president in Washington last week. After meeting with Kim's envoy, top lieutenant Kim Yong Chol, Trump said that he and Kim Jong Un will probably meet around the end of February but did not say exactly when and where the summit would take place.

Thursday's report said Kim expressed satisfaction over his envoy's meeting with Trump and spoke highly of the U.S. president for "expressing his unusual determination and will for the settlement of the issue with a great interest in the second summit."

"We will wait with patience and in good faith and, together with the U.S., advance step by step toward the goal to be reached by the two countries," Kim was quoted as saying.

Kim also "set forth tasks and orientation for making good technical preparations for the second (North Korea)-U.S. summit high on the agenda," according to KCNA.

Nuclear diplomacy has been stuck since Kim and Trump met in Singapore last June for their first summit, which ended with a vague denuclearization pledge by Kim that his government had previously used when it called for the withdrawal of the 28,500 U.S. troops in South Korea. A summit accord also stated that the United States and North Korea will commit to establishing new relations and join their efforts to build a lasting and stable peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

The strongest step Kim could promise to take for a second summit may be abandoning his long-range missile program targeting the U.S. mainland. That step, if realized, would trigger a strong backlash from many in South Korea and Japan, which are still placed in the striking distance of North Korea's short- and medium-range missiles. In return, Kim is seeking to get U.N. sanctions on his government lifted and better relations with the United States to try to revive his country's moribund economy to pave the way for a prolonged rule by his family, experts say.

North Korea observers say Vietnam is likely a venue for a second summit but there has been no official confirmation.

The nuclear diplomacy has replaced fears of war caused by Kim's series of high-profile nuclear and missile tests in 2017 that were followed by his exchanges of crude insults and threats of total destruction with Trump.

Kim has so far suspended nuclear and missile tests, dismantled North Korea's nuclear testing site and parts of its rocket engine test facility and took conciliatory measures like releasing American detainees. The North now says it's time for the U.S. to come up with reciprocal measures.

Governor convicted of blasphemy freed from Indonesian prison

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—A polarizing Christian politician whose campaign comments ignited protests that were the largest in Muslim-majority Indonesia in years was freed Thursday after serving nearly two years in prison for blasphemy.

Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, the former governor of Jakarta, left a paramilitary police prison outside the capital early Thursday with members of his family, said his spokesman Sakti Budiono, avoiding waiting supporters and media.

In 2016, Purnama made lighthearted campaign-trail comments that voters shouldn't heed his detractors who said the Quran prohibits Muslims from being led by Christians. Hardliners seized on the remarks as blasphemy, triggering protests that brought hundreds of thousands of white-robed Muslims to the center of Jakarta.

He was defeated in an election by a rival aligned with the protesters and sentenced to prison in May 2017 for blaspheming the Quran. Rights groups said the sentence highlighted why the easily abused blasphemy law should be repealed.

Days before being freed, Purnama posted online that he didn't want supporters to make a fuss about his release and apologized to Jakarta civil servants including "even my haters" that he'd offended by being rude and arrogant.

The movement against Purnama, an ally of President Joko Widodo, brought fringe groups into the political mainstream and rattled the government, highlighting the mingling of religion with politics in Indonesia, the world's third-largest democracy.

Widodo subsequently chose a conservative cleric as his running mate for April's presidential election, hoping to deflect attacks that he is insufficiently Islamic.

It's unclear if Purnama will return to politics but in a handwritten noted posted on Instagram earlier this week he told supporters to not be discouraged and to vote for candidates in April's presidential and legislative elections who support diversity.

Islamic Defenders Front member Novel Bakmumin, who filed a police complaint that led to Purnama being investigated for blasphemy, said the former governor should stay out of politics.

"I hope Ahok will not repeat a mistake that can cause unrest among Muslims, not only in Indonesia but in the world, because Islam is not his realm to be critical of, he should take care of his own religion," he said.

Purnama, part of the tiny ethnic Chinese minority in Indonesia, was popular with Jakarta's middle class for efforts to stamp out corruption and make the teeming capital more livable.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll from Indonesian floods and landslides rises to 26

MAKASSAR, Indonesia (AP)—The death toll from flooding and landslides in central Indonesia has risen to 26, the governor of a province that has been inundated by torrential rains said Thursday. South Sulawesi Gov. Nurdin Abdullah said in a TV interview that displaced people were still being evacuated. Ten districts and cities in the province including the capital Makassar have been affected by flooding that began late Tuesday, forcing more than 3,000 to flee their homes. The operators of the Bili Bili rock-filled embankment dam were forced to release water on Tuesday, which contributed to flooding but avoided a worse disaster, said Adnan Purichta Ichsann, the chief of Gowa district near Makassar. Adbullah told local media that siltation of the dam and deforestation of the upstream watershed had worsened the floods. Rescuers are still searching for 24 people, according to Syamsibar, head of the provincial disaster agency. Syamsibar, who goes by a single name, said the amount of rainfall was declining Thursday and the Bili Bili dam's water level had dropped by about 2 meters (6 ½ feet).

Thailand sets March election date after 5-year military rule

BANGKOK (AP)—Thailand's Election Commission on Wednesday announced that the nation's first general election since the military seized power in a 2014 coup will be held on March 24. The long-awaited announcement came just hours after Thailand's royal palace issued a decree authorizing the polls. The decree published Wednesday in the Royal Gazette put into effect election laws that were drafted by the military government, which has kept tight control over political activities and made efforts to quash dissent during its time in power. The ruling junta has repeatedly pushed back several promised election deadlines—at least once every year since their May 2014 coup overthrew the democratically elected government. This is the first time a poll date has been made official and is the most concrete step the country has taken toward a return to some form of civilian governance. A statement issued Wednesday by the office of Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the junta leader who staged the coup, said a new government "will be in place by the middle of this year."

Australia urges China to treat detained dual citizen fairly

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia on Thursday urged China to treat a Chinese-Australian writer fairly and transparently almost a week after he was detained in what a friend suspects is part of a backlash against Canada's arrest of a top Chinese telecommunications executive. Spy novelist and online commentator Yang Hengjun was a Chinese diplomat before he became an Australian citizen. Friends say the 53-year-old had been living in New York as a visiting scholar at Columbia University and had returned to China last week with his wife, Yuan Rui Juan, and 14-year-old stepdaughter. Foreign Minister Marise Payne said Chinese authorities notified the Australian Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday night that they had detained Yang. "We will continue to make representations to China to ensure that this matter is dealt with transparently and fairly," Payne said in a statement. "Our embassy in Beijing will meet with Chinese authorities this morning to seek further clarification of the nature of this detention and to arrange consular access at the earliest possible opportunity, in accordance with the bilateral consular agreement," she added.

World

Showdown in Venezuela as US backs Maduro rival's power claim

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Venezuelans headed into uncharted political waters Thursday, with the young leader of a newly united and combative opposition claiming to hold the presidency and socialist President Nicolas Maduro digging in for a fight with the Trump administration.

Violence flared again Wednesday during big anti-government demonstrations across Venezuela, and at least seven protesters were reported killed in the escalating confrontation with Maduro, who has been increasingly accused of undemocratic behavior by the United States and many other nations in the region.

Juan Guaido, the new leader of the opposition-controlled National Assembly, turned up the heat by declaring himself interim president before a mass of demonstrators in Caracas. He said it is the only way to end the Maduro "dictatorship" in Venezuela, which has seen millions flee in recent years to escape sky-high inflation and food shortages.

"We know that this will have consequences," Guaido shouted to the cheering crowd, then slipped away to an unknown location amid speculation that he would soon be arrested.

In a united and seemingly coordinated front, the U.S., Canada and another dozen mostly Latin American countries, including Brazil, Colombia and Argentina, quickly announced that they supported Guaido's claim to the presidency.

President Donald Trump promised to use the "full weight" of U.S. economic and diplomatic power to push for the restoration of Venezuela's democracy. "The people of Venezuela have courageously spoken out against Maduro and his regime and demanded freedom and the rule of law," he said in a statement.

Maduro fired back by breaking diplomatic relations with the U.S., the biggest trading partner for the oil-exporting country, and ordering American diplomats to get of the country within 72 hours. Washington said it would ignore the order.

The socialist leader, who so far has been backed by the military, as well as the government-packed courts and a constituent assembly, recalled the long history of heavy-handed U.S. interventions in Latin America during the Cold War as he asked his allies for support.

"Don't trust the gringos," he thundered to a crowd of red-shirted supporters gathered at the presidential palace. "They don't have friends or loyalties. They only have interests, guts and the ambition to take Venezuela's oil, gas and gold."

On Thursday, attention will shift to Washington, where diplomats at the Organization of American States will hold an emergency meeting on the Venezuelan situation. The debate promises to be charged, and the National Assembly's newly picked diplomatic envoy will be lobbying to take Venezuela's seat from Maduro's ambassador.

AP

An anti-government protester covers her face with a Venezuelan flag, and uses toothpaste around her eyes to help lessen the effect of tear gas, during clashes with security forces after a rally demanding the resignation of President Nicolas Maduro in Caracas, Venezuela, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

Zimbabwe's civil servants to strike on Friday over salaries

HARARE, Zimbabwe (AP)—Zimbabwe faces a new wave of unrest as the group representing government workers announced on Wednesday that roughly 500,000 civil servants across the country will go on strike after salary negotiations failed.

David Dzatsunga, secretary of the Civil Service Apex Council, said the strike will begin on Friday as the southern African nation's economic collapse deepens and frustration with President Emmerson Mnangagwa's government grows.

A crackdown on last week's protests over a sharp rise in fuel prices continued in the courts and on the streets, where witnesses and rights groups reported abuses by the military, police and ruling party youth gangs. Mnangagwa's call for national dialogue has been met with skepticism.

Soldiers and police tortured and assaulted people in their homes in Zimbabwe's second city, Bulawayo, overnight in "post-protest retribution," the Zimbabwe Human Rights NGO Forum said in a statement.

A labor federation leader charged with subversion was at court along with dozens of others accused of involvement in the protests, while their lawyers accused the government of systematically denying them justice.

Japhet Moyo, secretary-general of the Zimbabwe Congress of Trade Unions, could face 20 years in prison. He is accused of inciting Zimbabweans to protest the fuel price increase by staying off the streets. Other Zimbabweans, frustrated over the long lines for fuel and other basics, demonstrated, with some looting shops in anger or desperation.

The military deployed, and doctors and rights groups have documented at least 12 people killed and more than 300 wounded. Some were shot at close range. Others were pulled from hospital beds and arrested.

They are likely "just a fraction of the actual victims," the Zimbabwe Association of Doctors for Human Rights said Tuesday.

Lawyers say labor leader Moyo is not guilty. Pastor and activist Evan Mawarire, also accused of subversion for joining Moyo's call for protest, had his application for bail delayed until Friday by the High Court in the capital, Harare. He has been detained for a week.

Lawyers say more than 600 people have been arrested, with most of them denied bail. Those arrested, killed and wounded include ordinary citizens, including children. Some hungry Zimbabweans were picked up after venturing out in search of bread or other basics from the few shops open during the protests.

The dozens in court on Wednesday are accused of "committing public violence."

Lawyer Beatrice Mtetwa alleged "a coordinated, deliberate orchestrated attempt to subvert justice." Some people were forced to stand trial without being given sufficient time to brief their lawyers, she said.

Russia and Turkey mull next steps in war-torn Syria

MOSCOW (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Turkish counterpart Recep Tayyip Erdogan met Wednesday to coordinate their moves in Syria as their governments bargain over zones of influence in the war-torn country.

The leaders share strong opposition to the U.S. military presence in Syria, seeing it as an obstacle to their clout in the country. The Kremlin meeting marked their first encounter since U.S. President Donald Trump announced the pullout of American troops in a Dec. 19 tweet.

"If such plans are implemented, it will mark a positive move that would help stabilize the situation," Putin said about the planned U.S. withdrawal.

Putin emphasized Moscow's readiness to respect Turkey's interests, but encouraged it to talk to the Syrian government to help stabilize the border areas.

Turkey has pushed for the creation of a 32-kilometer (20-mile) "safe zone" in northeastern Syria to ensure that the Syrian Kurdish militia—The People's Protection Units, or YPG, which Turkey considers to be a "terrorist group" for its ties to outlawed Kurdish rebels inside Turkey—is kept away from the Turkish border.

The YPG is the main component of the Syrian Democratic Forces that rolled back the Islamic State group from wide parts of Syria with the help of the U.S.-led coalition.

"It is of critical importance that a power vacuum that can be abused by terror groups does not emerge during the process of the U.S. withdrawal," Erdogan said.

The Turkish leader noted that the U.S. has given positive signals regarding the "safe zone" and added that "there is no problem between us and Russia" in creating it.

"I have stated that our only aim is our duty to clear (the region) of terror organizations such as the PYD and the YPG, and especially of Daesh," Erdogan said, referring to the Kurdish militia group's political arm and IS.

Putin, however, used the meeting to reaffirm Moscow's support of contacts between Syrian President Bashar Assad's government and the Kurds.

"Such dialogue will help consolidation of the Syrian society and the national reconciliation," Putin said. "It will be beneficial not only to Syria but its neighbors."

Russia says it expects Assad's government to take over Kurdish-held border regions east of the Euphrates River following the planned U.S. troop withdrawal from the area, which Turkey objects to.

Turkey fears any deal between the Syrian government and the YPG in the border area as well as in the strategic town of Manbij, under which the Kurdish militia would remain a threat to Turkey's security.

Putin signaled Russia's willingness to accommodate Turkish security concerns, seeing strong ties with Turkey as an essential counterbalance to U.S. influence in the region.

"We respect the interests of our Turkish friends in ensuring security," Putin said.

But at the same time, he encouraged Turkey to use a 1998 treaty with Syria to help ensure border security.

Russia appears eager to sponsor Damascus' talks with the Kurds in the hope that it would extend the Syrian government's gains and further cement its hold on the country. The U.S. plan to withdraw has further bolstered Russia's role as the top power broker in Syria.

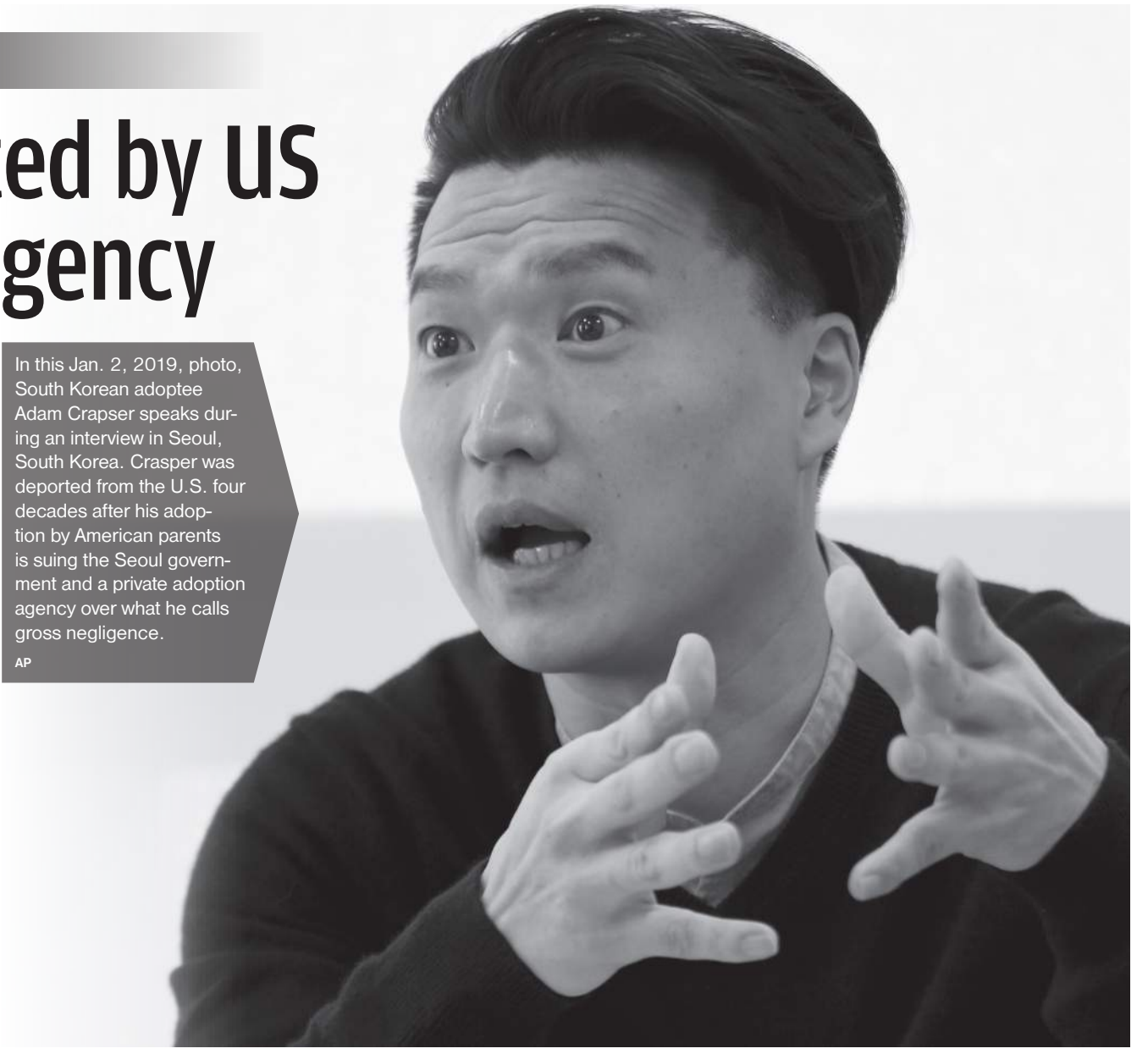
Syrian pro-government paper Al-Watan reported Tuesday that a Kurdish delegation arrived in Moscow a day before Erdogan. There was no independent confirmation yet from Kurdish officials.

Putin and Erdogan called each other "dear friend," hailing the close ties between their countries and their importance for regional security. They were accompanied by a retinue of security and military officials for detailed discussions on Syria.

Focus

AP EXCLUSIVE

Adoptee deported by US sues S. Korea, agency



In this Jan. 2, 2019, photo, South Korean adoptee Adam Crapser speaks during an interview in Seoul, South Korea. Crasper was deported from the U.S. four decades after his adoption by American parents is suing the Seoul government and a private adoption agency over what he calls gross negligence.

AP

By KIM TONG-HYUNG
ASSOCIATED PRESS

Adam Crapser lives in limbo, a stranger in South Korea, the country of his birth.

Forcibly separated from his wife, children and friends in America, he is isolated by language and culture, left alone to navigate this sprawling city he's been expelled to four decades after being sent to adoptive parents in Michigan at age 3.

Crapser was abused and abandoned by two different sets of adoptive parents in the United States; then he was deported after run-ins with the law because none of his guardians filed citizenship papers for him. He told The Associated Press in an interview that he has struggled in South Korea with intense anxiety and depression, even as he searches for answers about why his life has become defined by displacement.

That search has led him to file a landmark lawsuit against South Korea's government and a private adoption agency, the Seoul-based Holt Children's Services, over what Crapser calls gross negligence regarding the way he and thousands of other Korean children were sent to the United States and other Western nations without accounting for their future citizenship.

The 200 million won ($177,000) civil suit, which was described exclusively to the AP ahead of its filing Thursday by Crapser's lawyers in a Seoul court, exposes a dark side of South Korean adoptions, which exploded as a business during the 1970s and '80s when many children were carelessly and unnecessarily removed from their families.

The country was then at the height of a so-called "child export" frenzy pushed by military dictatorships that focused on economic growth and reducing the number of mouths to feed. There was no stringent oversight of adoption agencies, which were infamous for aggressive child-gathering activities and fraudulent paperwork as they competed to send more children abroad at faster speeds.

Crapser's case also highlights the shaky legal status of possibly thousands of South Korean adoptees in the United States whose parents may have failed to get them citizenship, potentially leaving them vulnerable to deportation if they acquire a criminal record in a country that's becoming increasingly aggressive about going after undocumented immigrants.

Crapser, who was named Shin Seong-hyeok by his Korean mother, is one of five adoptees who the Seoul government confirms now live in South Korea after being deported from the United States. Several of the deportees have reportedly dealt with mental health issues and served jail time in South Korea for assault and other crimes.

Activists say the South Korean government has done a poor job tracking deported adoptees and that the real number is almost certainly larger. Officials wouldn't provide details about the other deportees.

In South Korea, human rights lawsuits against the government can drag on for years and are rarely successful because the burden of proof in non-criminal cases is entirely on the plaintiffs, who often lack information and resources. Even if Crapser wins, the payout will likely be significantly smaller than what was demanded, considering past cases, according to Soh Rami, one of his lawyers.

Crapser said the amount of money is less important than forcing officials from Holt and the government into a courtroom to face questions of accountability. He said the government and Holt are responsible for failing to follow through on his adoption and ensuring that his American parents naturalized him. Because he wasn't a citizen, U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officials ordered him deported in November 2016 over criminal convictions, including unlawful possession of a firearm and assault.

His lawsuit also attempts to hold Holt and the government accountable for supposedly fraudulent paperwork over his adoption status. Most South Korean adoptees, including Crapser, were documented as abandoned, even in cases where they had known parents or were simply lost, which made them easily adoptable under U.S. laws. He also seeks to hold the government responsible for allowing foreigners to adopt babies without actually visiting South Korea, which Crapser blames for screening failures that led to his adoption by abusive parents.

The lawsuit cites the government as responsible for allowing adoptions to be controlled by profit-driven agencies that ran on fees collected from foreign parents. It wasn't until 2013 that South Korea required international adoptions of Korean children to go through local family courts.

"It's a daily struggle to survive and to continue to want to push forward and want some justice and want some accountability and want some answers," Crapser, now 43, told AP. "For everything to fall apart and for everything to happen the way it has, most people wouldn't be alive here to talk."

Kim Ho Hyun, Holt's president, said the agency followed the laws and procedures of the time and that it was mainly the responsibility of U.S. parents and institutions to ensure that adoptees obtained citizenship. Seong Chang-hyeon, an official from South Korea's Ministry of Health and Welfare, said the government is trying to improve welfare services for deported adoptees while also consulting with Washington over possible U.S. legal changes that could prevent adoptee deportations.

The U.S. State Department referred questions to the Department of Homeland Security, which couldn't immediately be reached for comment.

Currently living in a cramped one-bedroom apartment in Seoul, Crapser said the deportation has seriously strained his marriage and he often sinks into dark moods over his inability to be actively involved in the lives of his children.

He described the difficulties of being stuck in a country where he doesn't speak the language, including dismissive treatment at public offices and monthly visits to a psychiatrist who can't really speak English. While he talked fondly about meeting with his Korean mother every few months, he also expressed frustration over what he sees as a social stigma against adoptees here. He has eight more years before he's eligible to return to the United States.

About 200,000 South Koreans were adopted overseas during the past six decades, the majority to American couples. More than 4,000 Korean children were sent abroad in 1979, the year Crapser arrived in the United States.

Agency board members with ties to the military dictators of the day were less worried about child welfare than maintaining a business that brought in as much as $20 million a year by some estimates, critics say.

Reached on the telephone, Crapser's birth mother, Kwon Pil-ju, sobbed and said she felt like she had "horribly sinned" against her son. She said she was single, disabled and desperately poor, and that she finally decided to give her children away because of fears that they'd starve. They also have problems communicating—he can't speak Korean, she can't speak English, and they don't always have someone who could interpret.

Crapser said he "definitely didn't win the lottery" when it came to his American parents. He and a sister were sent to what he says was an abusive couple in Michigan in 1979. Seven years later, the couple abandoned Crapser, then 10, and his sister, and he ended up with Thomas and Dolly Crapser, who he said would sometimes slam their children's heads against walls, strike them with kitchen utensils and burn them with heated objects. Repeated calls to the Crapser home went unanswered.

In 1991, the couple was arrested on charges of physical child abuse, sexual abuse and rape. They were reportedly convicted in 1992 on multiple counts of criminal mistreatment and assault. Kicked out of his parents' house after an argument, Crapser pleaded guilty to burglary after he said he later broke into the home to retrieve a Korean-language Bible and a stuffed dog that came with him from a Korean orphanage. He was later convicted of unlawful possession of a firearm and assault.

Crapser thought he had turned a corner, opening a barber shop and an upholstery business and starting a family, when he was served his deportation paperwork in 2015 after a green card application triggered a background check.

"It's heartbreaking. A lot of the depression that I deal with, a lot of the hopelessness that I feel at times is attributed to the separation from my family that I created and not being able to be actually involved in their life every day like I was," he said.

> **"It's heartbreaking. A lot of the depression that I deal with, a lot of the hopelessness that I feel at times is attributed to the separation from my family that I created and not being able to be actually involved in their life every day like I was."**

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

Police capture pair of runaway emus in coastal Texas

GALVESTON, Texas (AP)—Police in coastal Texas have captured a pair of runaway emus that had been on the lam for a day after escaping from their owner's backyard. Emus aren't permitted in Galveston, but police say a man recently brought the large, flightless birds to the island after the death of his mother. She'd owned them at her home near Houston. The Galveston County Daily News reports the emus escaped their new owner's backyard sometime Monday. Police recaptured the birds near an elementary school Tuesday morning. Officials say the birds' owner didn't realize Galveston had a ban on emus and that he's working with authorities to find an off-island home for them.

Police: Drunken man took wrong Lyft to wrong home

CAPE ELIZABETH, Maine (AP)—Police in Maine say a drunken man took the wrong Lyft and tried to get into a house he mistakenly thought was his home. Cape Elizabeth police say the Falmouth man mistakenly got into a Lyft summoned by a man who lived next door. Police say the man was dropped off early Saturday and staggered toward a nearby home, believing it to be his. Police say he caused a commotion trying to get in, leading the homeowner to call the police. Cape Elizabeth Police Chief Paul Fenton says the intoxicated man was taken back to the police station to sober up. Fenton says the homeowner didn't want to press charges. Fenton says the man is very sorry.

Illinois man accused of letting 11-year-old drive to school

ROUND LAKE PARK, Ill. (AP)—An arrest warrant has been issued for a northern Illinois man who police say allowed an 11-year-old relative to drive herself to school in a stolen rental car while he rode along. The Lake County News-Sun reports that employees at a Round Lake Park elementary school saw the girl pull up to the school's drop-off point on Jan. 9. She and a 9-year-old girl who was in the back seat exited the car. Police say 31-year-old Khafilu Oshodi of Round Lake then moved into the driver's seat and drove away. He's wanted on two counts of child endangerment and driving with a suspended license. Police Chief George Filenko says the drop-off area is very busy and the incident could've "resulted in any number of tragic scenarios" if the child lost control.

Video captures moose chasing skiers at Colorado resort

BRECKENRIDGE, Colo. (AP)—A woman, in an effort to warn others of the dangers of moose, posted a video on social media of a moose charging skiers and snowboarders at a ski resort. The Summit Daily News reports Lauren Drogsvold captured the video Saturday at Breckenridge Ski Resort. The video shows a large bull moose approach and then charge a crowd of people. There were no reports of injuries. Resort CEO John Buhler recently said staff tries to prevent guests from approaching the highly territorial herbivores, which are generally peaceful but can turn aggressive when they feel threatened. Colorado Parks and Wildlife spokesman Mike Porras says the agency has jurisdiction over moose. He says wildlife officers are the only law enforcement personnel that can decide when to tranquilize and move a moose.

Wisconsin man uses ax on his property after spat over toys

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin police say a 34-year-old man who thought his wife damaged his action figures retaliated by taking an ax to the family's car, television and laptop in the house. Madison Police Chief Mike Koval says the man called police just after 10 p.m. Sunday and told them he had too much to drink and overreacted about his action figures. Police say the man struck the car's windshield so hard the ax got stuck. The man's name was not released. He was arrested and faces charges of disorderly conduct and felony damage to property. Police say he caused more than $5,000 in damages.

Police seek volunteers to get drunk for them; many respond

KUTZTOWN, Pa. (AP)—A Pennsylvania police department's request for volunteers to get drunk for law and order purposes generated a predictably enthusiastic response. The Kutztown Police Department sought three volunteers to drink hard liquor to the point of inebriation so officers could be trained how to administer field sobriety tests during traffic stops. A call for volunteers on Facebook accumulated hundreds of responses and over 1,000 shares in less than a day. The post was soon updated with the news that the department had its volunteers for the April 4 training session. Volunteers were required to have a clean criminal history and have a responsible party to take care of them after the training. Participants are also required to be willing to drink hard liquor until inebriated.

Cat rescued after sliding down dam's spillway

HUNTINGTON, Ind. (AP)—A wayward cat is safe after it was rescued from a dam in Indiana. The Huntington County Sheriff's Department writes on Facebook that a fisherman spotted the feline stranded on the spillway at the J. Edward Roush Lake dam. Officers could not reach the animal, so Army Corps of Engineers workers decided to help. The workers got permission to shut down the flow of water and they launched a boat. Video shows that when the boat reached the spillway, the cat slid all the way down into the arms of the rescuers before it hit the water.

Commuter's 'delay scarf' bought by German train company

BERLIN (AP)—Germany's biggest rail company, under fire for its unpunctual service, is trying to mollify one disgruntled commuter by buying her "delay scarf." Deutsche Bahn, which on Thursday announced plans to hire 22,000 more staff, bought the hand-made scarf in an online auction for 7,550 euros ($8,600). The money is being donated to a charity for the homeless. According to her daughter, Sara Weber, the Munich commuter had knitted the grey, pink and red scarf last year, with each color reflecting the amount of time her journey had been delayed. Weber's social media post about the scarf drew widespread attention this month, reflecting Deutsche Bahn customers' frustration at the company's persistent delays. Less than three quarters of Deutsche Bahn's long-distance trains arrived on time last year, debunking cultural assumptions about German punctuality.

Science & Technology

Google self-driving spinoff Waymo to put factory in Michigan

AP

In this March 27, 2018 file photo, the Jaguar I-Pace vehicle outfitted with Waymo's suite of sensors and radar is introduced in New York.

LANSING, Mich. (AP)—Google's self-driving car spinoff Waymo said Tuesday it will bring a factory to Michigan, creating up to 400 jobs at what it describes as the world's first plant "100 percent" dedicated to the mass production of autonomous vehicles.

The company plans to spend about $13.6 million to retrofit a to-be-determined manufacturing facility in the Detroit area. In exchange, it will get a state incentive grant worth up to $8 million that was approved Tuesday by the Michigan Strategic Fund Board.

Waymo spokeswoman Alexis Georgeson said the company plans to hire up to 400 people to work at the factory, including engineers, operations experts and fleet coordinators. She said Waymo is looking for a site and hopes to open the plant in the middle of this year. A memo from the Michigan Economic Development Corp. says Waymo will create 100 jobs, with the potential for up to 400, and it chose Michigan despite a "high level of interest" from states in the Midwest, South and Southwest.

The company integrates its self-driving system into vehicles it buys from automakers and is currently testing autonomous Chrysler Pacifica minivans in a preferred rider program for passengers in the Phoenix area, but with human backup drivers on board. It plans to expand the service to the San Francisco area but has not given a time frame. Waymo previously announced plans to buy 62,000 Pacificas and 20,000 I-Pace electric SUVs from Jaguar.

Waymo, which has a 20-employee facility in the Detroit suburb of Novi where it tests vehicles in snowy weather, will put the new factory in Wayne, Oakland or Macomb counties, where the auto industry dominates the economy with thousands of jobs from U.S. and foreign-based automakers as well as parts supply companies.

"As we begin to commercialize our business and vehicle supply grows, we're laying the foundation for a scalable, robust vehicle integration plan, starting in Michigan," the company said in a blog.

Bryant Walker Smith, a University of South Carolina law professor who studies autonomous vehicles, said the announcement shows that Waymo, which was spun off from Google and is part of parent company Alphabet Inc., has plans to integrate itself into the existing auto industry.

"You can't reinvent everything. Coming to Michigan in some ways is your complete recognition of that," Smith said. "Michigan is where you go in the United States to be fully immersed in automotive culture and industry."

Smith said Waymo will find abundant labor supply at a lower cost than in California, where it is now headquartered.

The announcement confirms that Waymo will use the Michigan factory to produce a large number of vehicles for ride-hailing services in many cities, Smith said. But it did not say when it will deploy the vehicles without human backup drivers.

"This is an announcement about a facility to be, and the cars that will come from that facility one day," Smith said. "What this is is that Waymo plans to eventually expand. They've been setting that foundation for a couple of years now."

Michigan Economic Development Corp. CEO Jeff Mason said Silicon Valley companies are increasingly interested in relocating to or expanding in the state. He cited KLA-Tencor's plan to open a $70 million semiconductor research-and-development center in Ann Arbor and Samsung SDI's plan to build a $60 million-plus electric vehicle battery pack plant in Auburn Hills.

Oracle accused of underpaying women, minorities by $400M

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—U.S. government regulators are accusing software maker Oracle of engaging in discriminatory practices that resulted in thousands of its women, black and Asian employees being underpaid by more than $400 million.

The allegations emerged Tuesday in a filing made in a two-year-old case that is being pursued by a part of the U.S. Labor Department that examines the pay practices of government contractors. The agency estimates Oracle has government contracts worth about $100 million annually.

The filing cites evidence that Oracle underpaid women and ethnic minorities for similar work done by white men by as much 25 percent. The alleged practices affected more than 5,000 women, more than 11,000 Asians and fewer than 30 blacks from 2013 through 2016.

Oracle declined to comment.

Life & Style

SAG honoree Alan Alda keeps using acting to make an impact

NEW YORK (AP)—When Alan Alda receives his life achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild on Sunday, it will celebrate a career that includes multiple Emmy awards, an Oscar nomination and social activism over nearly seven decades.

And one that continues to thrive, despite a diagnosis of Parkinson's disease.

At 82, Alda is still practicing his craft, describing the idea of retirement as "a living hell."

"Thank goodness I'm still working and having fun. I'm doing 'Ray Donovan' and 'The Good Fight,' and anything else that comes up that looks like fun to do," the actor told The Associated Press in a recent interview.

"And I I've been training and doing about a dozen things to hold back the progress of Parkinson's, which is pretty, you know, pretty successful. I'm still able to work and I do everything else that I do with a full heart," he added. "It's not at a point where it upsets me at all. I just cope with it, so I'm doing fine."

Alda is best known best known for his years-long stint as Captain Benjamin Franklin "Hawkeye" Pierce on the iconic television sitcom, "M.A.S.H." He also co-wrote and directed the series finale, "Goodbye, Farewell, and Amen," which was the most watched series broadcast in American television history, drawing 105 million viewers.

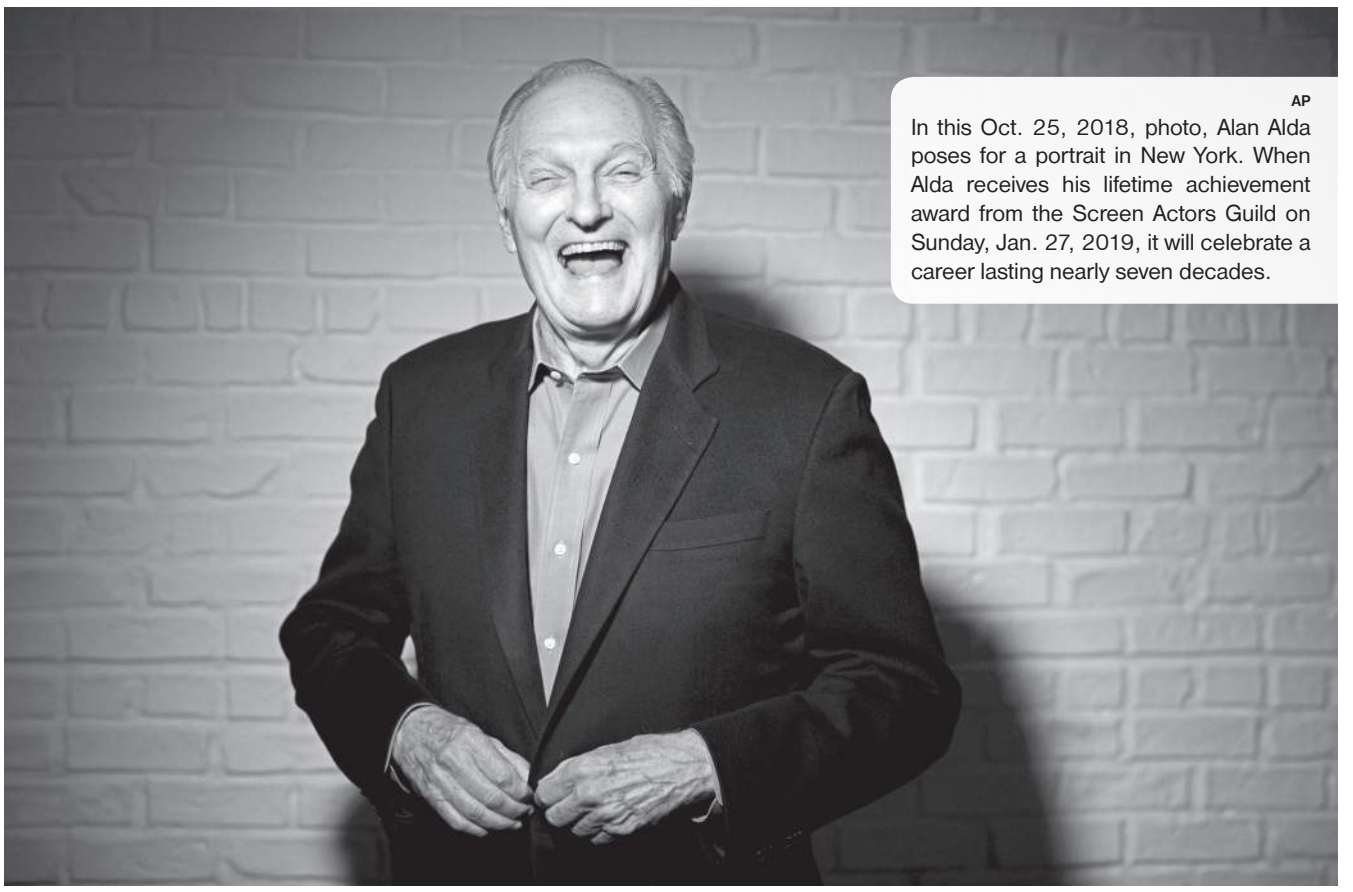
His resume also includes feature films, including "Same Time, Next Year" and "The Aviator," for which he was nominated for an Oscar, to TV shows including appearances on "30 Rock."

He will receive his SAG honor during Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards in Los Angeles, joining a group that includes Morgan Freeman, Clint Eastwood, Rita Moreno, Dick Van Dyke and Lily Tomlin.

Alda has also been involved in numerous charities and organizations that have supported children's causes and women's issues, including his support for the Equal Rights Amendment nearly 40 years ago.

He hopes the legacy that endures, even more so than his acting, is his social activism, particularly when it comes to his work with the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science at Stony Brook University in New York. The center works to bridge the gap between scientists and the public, and uses acting techniques, such as improvisational theater exercises to help make their message more relatable.

"I'm not going to notice what happens after I'm dead. But I would like to leave behind something of use to other people, and the work that I do on helping people communicate better is the only work I've ever done where I hoped it would not only still be there after I'm gone," Alda said, adding that the center has trained more than 12,000 people in the medical and science professions.



AP

In this Oct. 25, 2018, photo, Alan Alda poses for a portrait in New York. When Alda receives his lifetime achievement award from the Screen Actors Guild on Sunday, Jan. 27, 2019, it will celebrate a career lasting nearly seven decades.

"I'd like the whole world to benefit from it. So, maybe 50 or 100 years after I'm gone, it'll be better and more widespread than it is now," he said.

One initiative with the foundation is to "level the playing field" by training more women in the sciences, because as Alda says, "I'm still a concerned feminist."

He sees that same commitment to equality at SAG, especially with the awards ceremony's executive producer, Kathy Connell. She has helmed the show since its inception 25 years ago, and was the first woman to produce a major awards show.

"I think the people who represent the actors, the union that represents the actors can be and has been, influential in helping the image of who we are as a country, as a culture, be represented on screen a little more effectively. So, I'm very happy that there's this effort to do that by our guild."

Alda has often portrayed affable, nice guys on screen, which he says often comes from the script. But when being regarded as a nice guy in real life, well, that's something he attributes to his soul mate, his wife of 61 years, Arlene.

"Most of the good intentions I have come from my wife who helped me become a person better than any other person I can think of. So, I'm indebted to her. Not for what I have and what I do, but for who I am to a great extent," Alda said.

And that's what keeps him going.

"I'm always busy working and when I'm not, I can't imagine not doing that except for when I sit down and play a card game on my iPhone," Alda says.

He recalls the words of his late "M.A.S.H." cast mate, Wayne Rogers, who played, Captain "Trapper" John McIntyre on the show.

"I'm having fun. My friend Wayne Rogers used to say don't forget, fun, fun, fun, and he had fun."

Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper among SAG Awards presenters

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Lady Gaga, Bradley Cooper and Rami Malek are among the first presenters announced for Sunday's Screen Actors Guild Awards.

Other presenters announced Wednesday by the actors union include Chadwick Boseman, Sam Elliott, Constance Wu, John David Washington, Adam Driver, and Michelle Yeoh.

Ken Jeong, Henry Golding, Angela Bassett, Ben Hardy, Gwilym Lee and Joe Mazzello round out the list of first presenters.

Megan Mullally will host the 25th SAG Awards airing on TNT and TBS.

Tom Hanks will present Alan Alda with the SAG Life Achievement Award. The award is given annually to an actor who fosters the "finest ideals of the acting profession."

Previous lifetime achievement award recipients include Morgan Freeman, Carol Burnett, Betty White, Elizabeth Taylor, Sidney Poitier and George Burns.

Weinstein hires pack of new lawyers for NY rape case

NEW YORK (AP)—Harvey Weinstein unveiled a new legal team brimming with star power Wednesday to defend him at his upcoming New York rape and sexual assault trial.

Weinstein's four new lawyers all have experience defending high-profile clients, including Casey Anthony, former sports stars Aaron Hernandez and Kobe Bryant and, in a strange twist, one of Weinstein's own Hollywood accusers.

Two of the attorneys, Jose Baez and Ronald Sullivan, represented actress Rose McGowan last year in a Virginia drug case. McGowan, who pleaded no contest last week, was among the first of dozens of women who came forward to accuse Weinstein of sexual assault.

The pair join Bryant's former lawyer Pamela Robillard Mackey and ex-Manhattan prosecutor Duncan Levin in representing Weinstein on what's shaping up to be a modern version of the "dream team" that secured an acquittal for O.J. Simpson at his 1995 murder trial.

The quartet of lawyers replaces Benjamin Brafman, a tactical and pugnacious New York City defense lawyer who had been by Weinstein's side since he was arrested and paraded out of a Manhattan police station last spring.

McGowan, who's not involved in the criminal case, blasted the involvement of her former attorneys as a "major conflict of interest."

"I knew there was shadiness going on behind the scenes," the "Charmed" star told The Daily Beast. "This is why my case didn't go to trial—my instinct was my lawyers had been bought off."

"I thought Harvey would get to them behind the scenes and I wouldn't have fair representation," McGowan added.

Baez and Sullivan said in a statement that McGowan's case had nothing to do with Weinstein and that they were certain there was no conflict.

"We were pleased to represent our former client, Ms. Rose McGowan, in a matter unrelated to Mr. Weinstein's current charges," the lawyers said. "After consultation with ethics counsel, we are certain no conflict of interest exists. We wish Ms. McGowan well with all her future endeavors."

Weinstein, 66, is charged with raping an unidentified female acquaintance in 2013 and performing a forcible sex act on a different woman in 2006. A conviction could put him in prison for the rest of his life.

Brafman and Weinstein said in a statement last week that they had "agreed to part ways amicably." Their split came a month after they lost a hard fought bid to get his sexual assault case thrown out.

Brafman and Weinstein are due in court Friday for a judge to formally sign off on the lawyer swap.

Baez, perhaps the best-known name on the new legal team, first gained fame for representing Anthony, the Florida mom whose televised trial in 2011 ended in an acquittal on charges accusing her of killing her young daughter.

Baez and Sullivan successfully defended New England Patriots tight end Aaron Hernandez against murder charges in 2017. Hernandez, in prison for a 2015 murder conviction, killed himself five days later.

Mackey, who's based in Denver, represented Bryant when the former basketball star was accused of raping a 19-year-old at a Colorado resort in 2003. The charges were dismissed when prosecutors said the accuser was no longer interested in testifying.

In a statement released through a Weinstein spokesman, Mackey said she is thrilled to work with her friends, Baez and Sullivan, and "as they said, Harvey Weinstein is innocent and we are here to exonerate him."

Weinstein denies all allegations of nonconsensual sex.

"Mr. Weinstein steadfastly maintains his innocence in this matter and we are looking forward to assisting Mr. Weinstein in his defense," Baez and Sullivan said.

The Manhattan prosecutor's office declined comment.

Alec Baldwin taking anger class in parking dispute plea deal

NEW YORK (AP)—Days after appearing as President Donald Trump in a "Deal or No Deal" parody on "Saturday Night Live," Alec Baldwin took a deal of his own Wednesday, agreeing to attend an anger management class to resolve a criminal case stemming from a skirmish over a parking spot.

Baldwin, who was accused of striking another driver in the face during the dispute last fall outside his New York City home, pleaded guilty to harassment and will have his case record sealed once he completes the one-day class. The charge is a violation, the lowest level of offense.

A misdemeanor attempted assault charge was dropped.

Prosecutors offered the compromise after reviewing video of the incident, looking at medical records and talking with the victim and witnesses, Assistant District Attorney Ryan Lipes said. The 60-year-old Baldwin, who's had various scrapes with the law over the years, has a clean criminal record, Lipes said.

AP

Actor Alec Baldwin arrives in a New York City court, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, for a hearing on charges that he slugged a man during a dispute over a parking spot last fall.

Baldwin—in a sport coat, black top and black framed glasses—only spoke a few words during the brief court hearing, mostly answering short questions from the judge.

The Manhattan prosecutor's office declined comment.

Baldwin and his lawyer didn't comment outside court, but the actor wasn't shy on Twitter, where he criticized the media for staking out his courtroom when there were more serious cases elsewhere in the building and for misreporting the allegations against him.

"The press reported that I punched someone. That is untrue, and that is a serious charge. A man was punched in NY recently and died," Baldwin tweeted, along with a link to a news article about a fatal bar fight in Queens last November.

"Nothing that resembles justice ever enters or leaves any courtroom in this country," he added.

Baldwin was accused of trying to punch another driver during a Nov. 2 argument over a parking spot in front of his Manhattan apartment building.

Police said Baldwin claimed he had a family member holding the spot for him as he attempted to park his black Cadillac Escalade when a man driving a black Saab station wagon pulled up and took it.

Police said the men were arguing and pushed each other before Baldwin, got more aggressive. The driver of the station wagon told police that Baldwin hit him with his hand—but wasn't sure if it was a punch or a slap.

Baldwin told a police officer that the other driver "stole my spot," used a vulgarity to describe him, and acknowledged pushing him, prosecutors said in court papers.

Baldwin's lawyer, Alan Abramson, maintained that the former "30 Rock" actor would be vindicated by "incontrovertible video evidence."

Baldwin said on Twitter after Wednesday's hearing that there were three security cameras outside his building and that the punch "didn't happen."

No video was shown in court.

Baldwin, who got booted off a flight in 2011 for refusing to put his cellphone away, was playing with his phone while waiting for Wednesday's hearing to start—but he didn't argue when court officers announced that phones had to be turned off and out of sight.

Michael Jackson stage musical to premiere in Chicago

CHICAGO (AP)—A stage musical about Michael Jackson will premiere in Chicago later this year before heading to Broadway in 2020.

Officials said Wednesday that "Don't Stop 'Til You Get Enough" will begin pre-Broadway performances at Chicago's Nederlander Theatre on Oct. 29 and run through Dec. 1.

The previously confirmed musical, inspired by Jackson's life and music, is still under development. Two-time Pulitzer Prize winner Lynn Nottage is writing the book, using Jackson's vast catalog of songs. Tony Award winner Christopher Wheeldon will direct and choreograph.

Jackson sold millions of records and was a 13-time Grammy winner. In 1983 he became an international icon with the release of "Thriller," the best-selling album of all time with such hits as "Beat It" and "Billie Jean." He died in 2009.

Singaporean actor Aloysius Pang dies from military injuries

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—Singaporean actor Aloysius Pang has died from injuries he sustained to his chest and abdomen during a military training exercise in New Zealand.

He was 28.

Singapore's defense ministry says Pang died early Thursday at Waikato Hospital.

Also known as Pang Wei Chong, the actor was injured Saturday when the gun barrel lowered on a large artillery device while he was repairing it.

He had been participating in a training exercise at the Waiouru training area on New Zealand's North Island.

Singapore mandates young men serve in its armed forces, police force or civil defense force.

Pang was an armament technician whose rank was corporal first class.

Pang worked on the movie "Young & Fabulous" (2016) as well as television series that included "The Truth Seekers" (2016) and "C.L.I.F." (2011).

Gandolfini's son cast as young Tony for 'Sopranos' prequel

NEW YORK (AP)—The son of James Gandolfini has been cast as the young Tony Soprano in the planned "Sopranos" prequel, "The Many Saints of Newark."

Michael Gandolfini will play a younger version of the iconic character his late father played on the HBO series. The 19-year-old actor has had a recurring role on HBO's "The Deuce."

Gandolfini said in a statement it's "a profound honor to continue my dad's legacy." James Gandolfini died of a heart attack at the age of 51 in 2013.

"Sopranos" creator David Chase is producer and screenwriter for the New Line production. Alan Taylor, who directed several episodes of "The Sopranos" and 2013's "Thor: The Dark World," is set to direct.

"The Sopranos" recently celebrated the 20th anniversary of its 1999 debut.

Carrie Underwood, Mike Fisher welcome baby boy, Jacob Bryan

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—Carrie Underwood says her heart is full after the arrival of her second son.

The country superstar posted photos of herself, her husband Mike Fisher and her son Isaiah with the newborn, who she said was born early Monday. Her post states "his mom, dad and big brother couldn't be happier for God to trust them with taking care of this little miracle."

The seven-time Grammy winner Underwood and Fisher, a former NHL player, named him Jacob Bryan Fisher. The former "American Idol" winner revealed last year that she had three miscarriages in about two years.

The 35-year-old singer is scheduled to go on tour this spring and last year released her latest album, "Cry Pretty," which debuted at the top of the Billboard 200 chart.

Shy guy overcoming addiction flounders in the dating pool

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 28-year-old male who has never had a girlfriend or a meaningful relationship. I'm well-educated, nice-looking and have a good sense of humor. But I get shy and nervous around the opposite sex. Compounding that, I seem to have a serious "resting face." People assume I'm frustrated or angry/grumpy when it's just my normal expression. I'm worried it makes me unapproachable or appear to be unpleasant.

I have overcome addiction, attend daily support meetings and have almost a year of sobriety. I avoid bar/club scenes where a lot of people my age socialize. I'm beginning to feel very alone and empty. I asked out a temp at my job, but she had a boyfriend and offered to set me up with a friend of hers. I declined because I was embarrassed.

My friends tell me it's a game of numbers, but it hurts being rejected all the time. I see beautiful, nice women with men who treat them badly, and I obsess over what's wrong with me. My experience with women is limited. I'm not looking for a commitment, just some friends to share good times and laughter with. I'd love to have someone to spend time with before loneliness awakens previous bad habits.

ABOUT TO GIVE UP IN CONNECTICUT

DEAR ABOUT TO GIVE UP: I doubt your "resting face" is what keeps women away. It's more likely the fact that you are afraid to interact with them.

Start by talking to some of the women in your support meetings. They already know something about you and the strides you have made in overcoming your addiction. And involve yourself in activities you enjoy that are more social. It may help you to develop your "people skills" so you will feel less anxious in other social situations. But do not allow yourself to use the fact that you are lonely to destroy your sobriety because it would be a poor excuse.

DEAR ABBY: I hate eating with my spouse because his table manners are awful. He sits with both elbows on the table, leans close to the dinner plate and uses his fingers to push his food onto his fork. He mashes everything on his plate together before he starts eating, smashes crackers in his soup, scrapes his spoon on the bottom of the bowl and slurps his liquids. He also licks his fingers.

He thinks he can modify these behaviors when he's with others, but he lapses into them even when he's with friends in a restaurant. Please help me. How can I get him to change? Must I tolerate it? I have tried constructive suggestions and gentle prodding with no success. Please respond in your column because he reads it daily—while he eats.

DISTRAUGHT SPOUSE IN COLUMBUS, OHIO

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

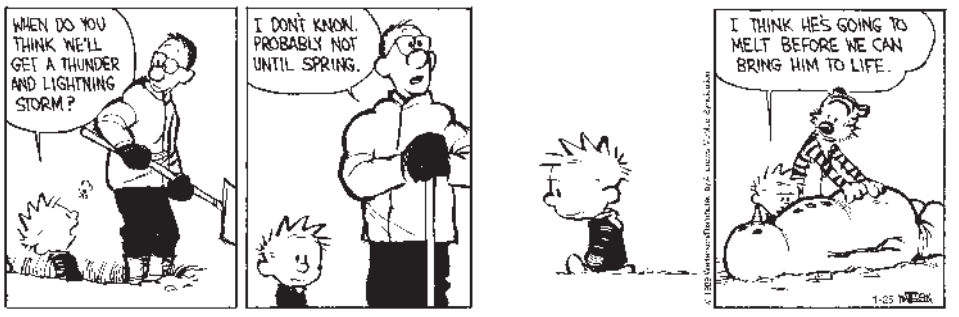
DEAR DISTRAUGHT SPOUSE: Your husband must have many wonderful qualities if you married him knowing this is the way he consumes his food. Among them is an awareness that he should modify his eating habits when he's with friends. Let him know that YOU are his BEST friend and you would like him to practice his "party manners" when he eats with you. If he's reluctant, point out that he "lapses" when he's socializing with others, and it isn't pretty. It may motivate him to try harder.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

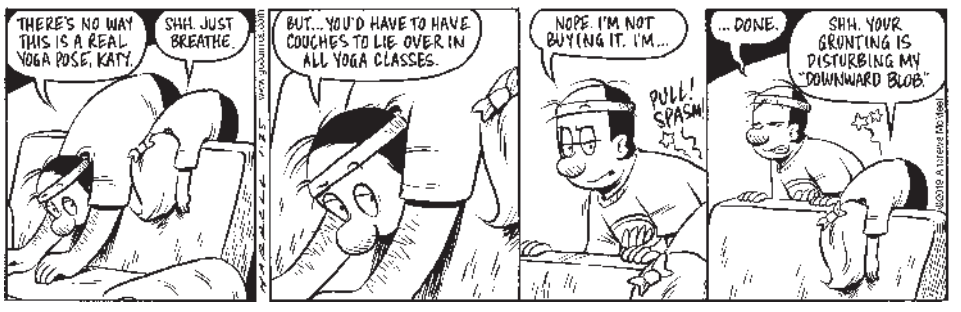

WHEN DO YOU THINK WE'LL GET A THUNDER AND LIGHTNING STORM?
I DON'T KNOW. PROBABLY NOT UNTIL SPRING.
I THINK HE'S GOING TO MELT BEFORE WE CAN BRING HIM TO LIFE.
1-25

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

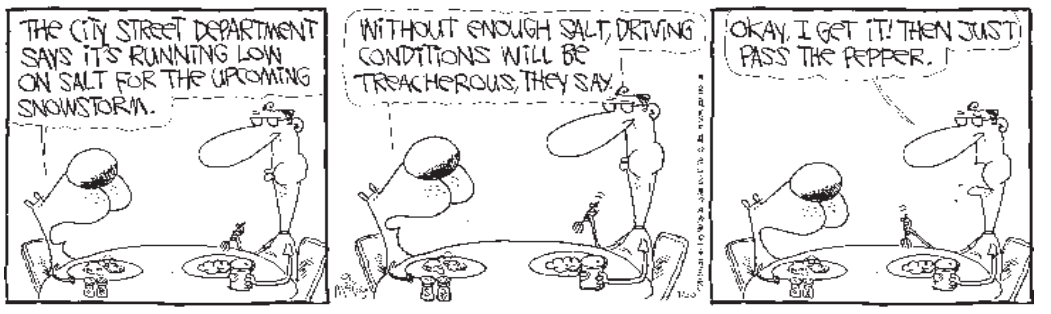
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


THERE'S NO WAY THIS IS A REAL YOGA POSE, KATY.
SHH. JUST BREATHE.
BUT... YOU'D HAVE TO HAVE COUCHES TO LIE OVER IN ALL YOGA CLASSES.
NOPE. I'M NOT BUYING IT. I'M...
PULL! SPASM
... DONE.
SHH. YOUR GRUNTING IS DISTURBING MY "DOWNWARD BLOB."

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


THE CITY STREET DEPARTMENT SAYS IT'S RUNNING LOW ON SALT FOR THE UPCOMING SNOWSTORM.
WITHOUT ENOUGH SALT, DRIVING CONDITIONS WILL BE TREACHEROUS, THEY SAY.
OKAY, I GET IT! THEN JUST PASS THE PEPPER.

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

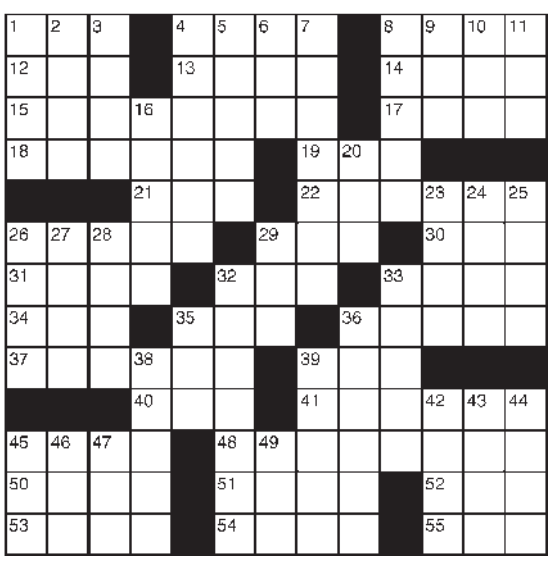
ACROSS
1 Billboards
4 Competent
8 Pretzel topper
12 Fib
13 Work hard
14 Spiced tea
15 In toto
17 Frees (of)
18 Bug barrier
19 "Gosh!"
21 Reply (Abbr.)
22 Also
26 "It's a Wonderful Life" director
29 French article
30 "— -haw!" (rodeo cry)
31 "Hi, sailor!"
32 Follower (Suff.)
33 Nota —
34 Airline to Sweden
35 "Today" rival, briefly
36 Fragrant wood
37 Typically
39 X-ray's cousin
40 — -de-France
41 Oregon city
45 Apple computer
48 Prescription phrase
50 Opulent
51 Attic buildup
52 Historic time
53 Needing liniment
54 Pro votes
55 — de plume

DOWN
1 "Sad to say ..."
2 Platter
3 Char
4 Goddess of wisdom
5 Benefits
6 Dogpatch adjective
7 Graceful
8 Threaded hardware
9 Sashimi fish
10 Young bloke
11 Frank McCourt memoir
16 Tired
20 Language suffix
23 Kept tabs on
24 Sultry Horne
25 Ogler's look
26 Juan's home
27 Cries of discovery
28 Stance
29 G8 member
32 "Let's do this!"
33 Ecru
35 Solidify
36 Vinegar bottles
38 French spa town
39 High-IQ group
42 Idyllic place
43 Sleuth Wolfe
44 Dutch cheese
45 Lyricist Gershwin
46 Karaoke prop, for short
47 Köln cry
49 Take to court

Solution time: 25 mins.

A	R	I	A	■	L	A	B	S	■	D	A	B
D	E	N	T	■	O	K	R	A	■	A	L	A
D	A	S	H	B	O	A	R	D	■	N	E	D
S	P	O	O	I	S	■	■	A	■	B	F	F
■	■	■	M	Y	■	T	A	T	E	R	■	■
J	A	D	E	■	P	E	W	■	D	O	L	L
A	V	A	■	■	E	E	E	■	W	E	E	■
M	I	T	T	■	L	T	D	■	B	N	A	I
■	■	E	A	R	T	H	■	D	A	■	■	■
O	H	B	O	Y	■	■	S	O	R	D	■	D
B	O	O	■	D	A	N	C	E	B	A	N	D
I	P	O	■	E	S	A	U	■	E	D	N	A
E	E	K	■	R	I	N	D	■	R	O	S	Y

Yesterday's answer 1-25



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Hartley Sawyer, 34; Alicia Keys, 38; Ana Ortiz, 48; Jenifer Lewis, 62.

Happy Birthday: Step up matters that have been pending. This is your year to take care of unfinished business and to negotiate on your own behalf in order to set the record straight. Once you put everything in its place, doors will open and new and exciting opportunities will unfold. Love, romance and personal gains will also be focal points. Your numbers are 6, 13, 19, 25, 31, 33, 44.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Consider how to make the most out of what you've got to get ahead. The desire to reach a set goal and the initiative to take charge will encourage success. Love and romance will enhance your personal life. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* You may not agree with everyone, but listen and assess what's being said and done before you say no to someone or something that could be in your best interest. Don't let stubbornness take over or you may lose out. ✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Thought should be followed by action. Trust in your ability to get things done, and don't stop until you finish. A personal relationship should be looked at closely before you make a change or suggestion. Romance is highlighted. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Dream big and don't limit what you can do. A chance to negotiate on your own behalf will give you the leverage you need to get your way. Take a unique approach to whatever you do. Make an impression. ✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Make travel plans or sign up for an event that interests you. Challenge yourself physically and offer a romantic suggestion to someone you love. You can make a difference if you take action and help those who have limitations. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Refuse to get all wrapped up in someone else's enthusiasm. If you get involved in something that hasn't been thought-out, you'll have regrets. Take the helm if you want to get things done right. Act on principle, not infatuation. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Think, communicate and get approval before you put your plans into motion. Getting the go-ahead will be the difference between success and failure. A change has to be good for all involved, not just you. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Listen carefully and find out where everyone stands before you make a commitment to participate. You may prefer to go it alone if you aren't comfortable with the suggestions someone makes. It's OK to take a pass. Do your own thing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Make changes for the right reasons. Don't let emotional situations cloud your vision. Consider what's best for everyone, and be honest with regard to your motives. Concentrate on home, family and domestic improvements. Do the work yourself. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* You know what you need, but before you get started, consider how the decisions you make will affect other people. Be open to suggestions but also aware of the cost involved to bring about the changes you want to make. ✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Take control of what's going on in your life. An opportunity is apparent, but you need to be free and clear of the past in order to move forward with precision and confidence. Someone you love will offer clarity and support. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Keep your thoughts to yourself. If you reveal personal information, it will be used against you. Do something that makes you feel good. Volunteer your time or do something creative that will lift your spirits. Avoid excess or indulgent behavior. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are intuitive, smart and innovative. You are confident and strategic.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

7						
	3	1		8	9		7
5			9			3	
6						8	
	7		6		5		
9						1	
	3			1			5	
1		6	5		2	8		
						6	

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 1/25

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Last Friday's Answer

7	6	1	2	4	3	8	5	9
3	9	5	6	8	7	1	4	2
4	2	8	9	1	5	6	3	7
5	8	9	3	7	6	2	1	4
6	1	4	8	5	2	7	9	3
2	3	7	4	9	1	5	8	6
8	5	6	7	3	9	4	2	1
1	7	3	5	2	4	9	6	8
9	4	2	1	6	8	3	7	5

Difficulty Level ★★★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the WONDERWORD.

DON'T BE MISINFORMED Solution: 8 letters

Y	H	C	A	E	T	T	R	R	E	T	T	I	W	T
R	P	O	I	N	T	N	S	E	L	C	I	T	R	A
A	K	A	E	L	O	L	L	O	W	I	D	E	A	E
N	S	T	N	I	H	S	U	I	P	O	P	A	S	T
O	N	E	T	M	R	L	S	F	A	X	P	A	I	S
I	Y	U	Z	O	A	R	A	E	E	M	C	T	T	E
T	A	F	T	I	E	D	T	E	E	R	P	A	R	S
C	A	C	I	W	N	A	N	M	V	E	A	O	H	M
I	O	L	S	T	C	G	E	A	C	E	N	C	T	R
D	S	N	K	U	O	S	O	N	G	G	R	P	N	O
E	A	T	D	S	H	N	O	C	I	A	K	U	E	F
B	W	E	C	A	I	C	O	D	E	L	P	K	S	T
A	I	A	R	A	D	V	I	S	E	R	N	O	E	A
T	L	E	R	P	F	S	E	G	A	M	I	O	R	L
E	D	T	E	N	S	R	O	M	U	R	N	L	P	P

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Advise, Answers, Articles, Careful, Case, Caution, Code, Concept, Debate, Dictionary, Doctors, Educate, Expert, Facts, Hints, Idea, Ignore, Images, Intent, Leak, Look Up, Mail, Memes, Notify, Online, Past, Platforms, Point, Post, Power, Present, Propaganda, Recognize, Research, Reveal, Rumors, Share, Spread, Talks, Teach, Train, Twitter, Warn, Wild

Yesterday's Answer: Shared

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Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
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Phone (670) 433-2200 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, January 30, 2019 at 4:30 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College, Tinian campus, building B (room E) in San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  - October 09, 2018
  - December 22, 2018

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS

III. NEW BUSINESS
- A. Deadline for Spring 2019 Supporting documents
- B. Review and Approval of Spring 2019 applicants

IV. MISCELLANEOUS

V. SCHEDULE OF NEXT BOARD MEETING

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION[2]

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1]We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2]Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3]Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Are You The Owner Of One Of These Trucks?

Year / Make / Model	VIN
2006 Mazda B4000 pick-up	4F4ZR47E96PM01415
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D06PM01652
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D96PM01790
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16D36PM02109
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR12D66PM02627
2006 Mazda B2300 pick-up	4F4YR16DX6PM02656

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We are seeking for high energy individuals with a positive, can do attitude.Pacific Islands Club, Saipan is inviting qualified, U.S. workers to apply for the following positions:

(1) ASSISTANT RESERVATIONS MANAGER

Degree in hotel/hospitality management or equivalent preferred, Minimum of one (1) year experience working in Room Reservations for a hotel and three (3) years of related managerial experience. Must be proficient with hotel Property Management System (Micros Opera), Microsoft Word, and Microsoft Excel. Has experience with Vision Reports. Must be able to work evenings, weekends, and holidays.

Applications must be received by 5:00 pm on Wednesday, January 30th, 2019.

PIC applications are available at the PIC Security Desk by the Loading Dock/Employee Entrance. Incomplete applications will NOT be accepted or considered. PIC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

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Management Assistant

We are looking for an energetic, assertive and self-motivated individual to work directly with the President of the company in a dynamic setting. The right person must have the confidence to actively network and be an effective liaison on behalf of the company; be comfortable expressing ideas, concepts and ideas for the improvement of the company & customers; and also have the ability to adapt and respond effectively to company and customer needs. Full or Part-time applicants welcome.

- Applicant Must
  - o Have excellent written and verbal communications skills.
  - o Have the ability to work independently and be a self-starter.
  - o Be competent with Word, Excel and PowerPoint and with website and social media management and editing.
  - o Be able to organize, compile & interpret data
  - o Have reliable transportation during working hours
  - o Be a US Citizen or Green Card applicant

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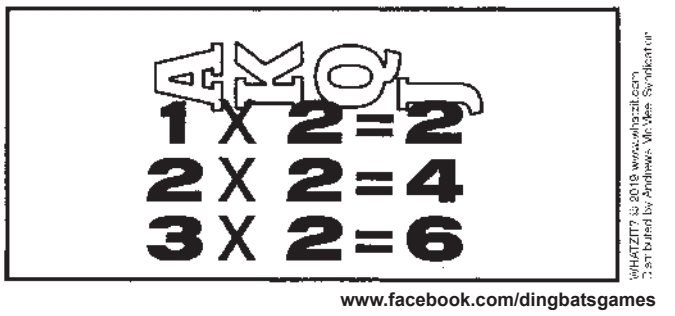

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Serena stunned by Pliskova in quarterfinals

AP
Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic makes a return to United States' Serena Williams during their quarterfinal match at the Australian Open tennis championships in Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019.

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—Four times, Serena Williams was only one point—a single point—from closing out a victory in the Australian Open quarterfinals.

On the first such chance, at 5-1, 40-30 in the third set, she turned her left ankle awkwardly. The owner of the best serve in the sport would lose every point she served the rest of the way.

And so it was that a startling reversal and result would follow Wednesday at Melbourne Park, with Williams dropping the last six games of a 6-4, 4-6, 7-5 loss to No. 7-seeded Karolina Pliskova of the Czech Republic.

"I can't say that I choked on those match points," Williams said. "She literally played her best tennis ever on those shots."

The 37-year-old American didn't call for a trainer during the match and later wouldn't blame the ankle for the way everything changed down the stretch, saying afterward that it "seems to be fine."

But instead of Williams moving closer to an eighth championship at the Australian Open and record-tying 24th Grand Slam title overall, it is Pliskova who will continue the pursuit of her first major trophy.

"I was almost in the locker room," Pliskova told the Rod Laver Arena crowd, "but now I'm standing here as the winner."

Normally, Williams is the one manufacturing a comeback. This time, it was surprising to see her let a sizable lead vanish. Only twice before in 380 Grand Slam matches had Williams lost after holding a match point, at the 2010 French Open and 1999 Australian Open.

In Thursday's semifinals, Pliskova will face No. 4-seeded Naomi Osaka, who advanced by beating No. 6 Elina Svitolina 6-4, 6-1. The other women's semifinal will be two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova against unseeded American Danielle Collins.

In men's action Wednesday, No. 28 Lucas Pouille of France reached his first Grand Slam semifinal by beating 2016 Wimbledon runner-up Milos Raonic of Canada 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-4. Pouille, who is coached by two-time major champion Amelie Mauresmo, had been 0-5 for his career at the Australian Open until last week. His next opponent will be 14-time major champion Novak Djokovic, who moved on when 2014 U.S. Open finalist Kei Nishikori stopped playing while trailing 6-1, 4-1.

Nishikori was treated for leg problems by a trainer.

Williams' surprising departure scuttled what would have been a much-anticipated rematch against Osaka, who beat her in the chaotic U.S. Open final last September.

This defeat is the earliest in Australia for Williams since 2014, when she exited with a fourth-round loss to Ana Ivanovic. Since then? She won the tournament in 2015, lost in the final in 2016, and won again in 2017 while pregnant, before missing last year's edition a few months after the birth of her daughter.

As for chasing Margaret Court's all-time mark of 24 Slam trophies in singles, Williams said: "It hasn't happened yet, but I feel like it's going to happen."

The match against Pliskova was played under a stifling sun, with the temperature around 80 degrees (25 degrees Celsius). Williams—coming off an intense three-set victory over No. 1 Simona Halep in the fourth round—often stepped into the patches of shade behind each baseline.

She did not start well, not well at all. Her mistakes were mounting and deficit was growing.

In the first set alone, Williams made more than twice as many unforced errors as her opponent, 11-5, a pattern that would continue throughout. By the end, the margin was 37-15.

Looking increasingly frustrated, Williams would yell at herself after mistakes or gesture as if to say, "That's NOT how I should be hitting the ball!" Add it all up, and Pliskova led by a set and a break at 3-2 in the second.

Only then did Williams get going. From there, she immediately earned her first break point of the match and converted it to get to 3-all, beginning a run in which she claimed nine of 11 games.

"You don't really feel," Pliskova said, "like you're going to win this match."

Serving for the victory at 5-1, 40-30, Williams was called for a foot fault—reminiscent of an infamous such ruling at the U.S. Open a decade ago. During the ensuing point Wednesday, Williams twisted her left ankle and dumped a forehand into the net.

Djokovic to battle Frenchman in semis

Lucas Pouille had lost every Australian Open match he played until he hired Amelie Mauresmo as coach.

A couple of months later, he's into a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time.

The 24-year-old Frenchman will next play Novak Djokovic, who is aiming for a men's record seventh Australian title, so things will get tougher.

Djokovic was leading 6-1, 4-1 and his quarterfinal match was less than an hour old Wednesday when eighth-seeded Kei Nishikori retired with an injured right leg, finally succumbing after three of his four previous rounds went to five sets. It gave Djokovic a spot in the semifinals at Melbourne Park for the first time since 2016, when he won his second straight title and his fifth in six years.

"Feels great. This has been my most successful Grand Slam throughout my career," Djokovic said. "Past two years have been a bit tough with the elbow injury and everything.

"Over the past 10 years, I've had plenty of success here. Everyone tries to get their hands on one of the four biggest titles in sport, but Australia has been really kind to me."

Pouille isn't even sure how far he's capable of going. But after losing in the first round on his five previous visits, he knows the trajectory is OK.

"I didn't win a match in Melbourne before," Pouille said. "Now I'm in the semifinals. So just very, very happy."

Tiger returns to Torrey to face strong field, strong course

SAN DIEGO (AP) — Rory McIlroy had a week to remember his first trip to San Diego. He carried Northern Ireland's flag during the opening ceremony of the Junior World Championship and later had a picture taken at Torrey Pines with a certain Mr. Woods.

That was 20 years ago.

And it was Earl Woods, the father of Tiger.

"Tiger was probably off winning majors," McIlroy said with a laugh on the eve of his debut in the Farmers Insurance Open.

McIlroy saw enough of the South Course—10 holes on Monday, the pro-am Wednesday—to appreciate why this public course along the Pacific bluffs has been known for years as Woods' personal playground. Along with a Junior World title as a teenager, Woods has won the PGA Tour event seven times, and his most famous title at Torrey was that 2008 U.S. Open for his 14th major.

"You need to be a tremendous ball striker. You need to be a great iron player, a great short game," McIlroy said. "And those have been the hallmarks of his game over the past 20-odd years. So I can see why he has done so well around here."

Woods gets his next crack when he makes his 2019 debut at Torrey Pines, with a chance to win consecutive PGA Tour starts for the first time in six years.

Never mind that his last start was four months ago at the season-ending Tour Championship.

All that did was ratchet up the expectations, a far cry from a year ago when expectations were replaced by curiosity. Woods started last season after recovering from a fourth back surgery, unsure how he would respond from gouging out of thick rough or how much he would be able to play in the early part of the year.

"Way different," Woods said. "Last year was very fluid, and it was like trying to hit a moving target. It was quite interesting to try and figure it all out as the year progressed. This year I have a great understanding of what I can and can't do. There's not uncertainly that I had last year after what I did at the end of last year."

Woods brings a big buzz to a tournament that already has a lot going for it—good weather, gorgeous views of the Pacific, the first network coverage of the year (CBS) and the open week before the Super Bowl.

Phil Mickelson is skipping his hometown event for the first time in 28 years, though there is no shortage of star power with Woods and McIlroy, Jordan Spieth playing for the first time in four years, Xander Schauffele, Masters champion Patrick Reed and Justin Rose, who remains No. 1 in the world.

This is the first strong test of the year with a North course that has been upgraded and a South course renowned for hosting the U.S. Open in 2008, with another one coming in 2021.

McIlroy had only seen the South course on television. He was only 10 when he played the Junior World, not old enough to compete at Torrey. Instead, he played at Presidio Hills in downtown, where he made a hole-in-one and tied for eighth with a group that included Tony Finau.

But it has felt familiar to him this week.

Snead's big bets on Rams' future pay off in Super Bowl trip

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif. (AP) — One year ago, general manager Les Snead and the Los Angeles Rams' front office decided they had to jump through the championship window that had suddenly, shockingly appeared before them.

Now that they've landed on their feet in Atlanta, Snead has zero regrets about writing the checks and making the commitments necessary for his Super Bowl-bound team to make that leap.

"After winning the division last year, after contending last year, we sat back and said, 'We definitely feel like we can do this, and we could do this consistently for a little while,'" Snead said Wednesday. "I think the moves this year were (about saying), 'Let's improve. That wasn't good enough.'"

The Rams reached the playoffs last season for the first time in 13 years, with rookie coach Sean McVay leading a seven-win improvement for a franchise that hadn't had a winning season since 2003.

But Los Angeles promptly lost its first postseason game to the Falcons, putting a slight damper on that incredible one-season turnaround.

Knowing the tenuousness of NFL success for every team except the Patriots—and realizing the impact that a Super Bowl run could have in the Rams' new hometown — Snead decided it was already time to do everything possible to help homegrown stars Todd Gurley, Aaron Donald and Jared Goff.

"That feeling after Atlanta was hollow, even after the sweetness of the breakthrough," said Snead, the genial Alabama native in charge of the Rams' front office since 2012.

So the Rams made several enormous bets on themselves, and every single one of them has paid off.

AP

Los Angeles Rams quarterback Jared Goff, left, is tackled by New Orleans Saints defensive end Cameron Jordan during the second half of the NFL football NFC championship game Sunday, Jan. 20, 2019, in New Orleans

The Rams acquired defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, cornerbacks Aqib Talib and Marcus Peters and edge rusher Dante Fowler to bolster their defense. They gave huge contracts to Gurley and Donald—and even to receiver Brandin Cooks, who had just been acquired from New England for a first-round pick and hadn't even suited up yet for Los Angeles.

Snead's largely homegrown roster was suddenly supplemented by elite, high-priced veteran talent, and McVay's staff made it all work.

After matching the NFL's best regular-season record at 13-3 and then beating Dallas and New Orleans in the postseason, the Rams are beginning preparations for their trip to Atlanta to face New England in the Super Bowl on Feb. 3.

Snead knows some of the Rams' moves were greeted with raised eyebrows. Talib and Peters are well-known for their strong personalities, with Peters particularly enduring rough patches in college at Washington and again with Kansas City.

Yet there hasn't been a hint of serious conflict in the Rams' harmonious locker room. Despite some up-and-down performances, Peters allowed the Rams to get past the loss of Trumaine Johnson, their top cover cornerback last season, while Talib is a team captain who has been the Rams' top cover man since returning from injury in December.

Suh didn't immediately have the dramatic effect many expected after he signed for one season at $14 million, but he was incredibly disruptive in the Rams' two playoff games—which also happened to be the first two postseason victories of his nine-year NFL career.

Snead gives much of the credit to McVay and defensive coordinator Wade Phillips, but he also isn't surprised.

Patriots' defense back on track

FOXBOROUGH, Mass. (AP)—It took an entire regular season and some tough losses, but the Patriots defense finally likes where it is at heading into its Super Bowl matchup with the Los Angeles Rams.

It hasn't been perfect, but after a slow start to 2018 and fighting to find an identity following the departure of defensive coordinator Matt Patricia, the Patriots have found stability for a group that gave up 25 or more points five times through its first 10 games.

The Patriots rarely revisit the past, but on Wednesday linebacker Kyle Van Noy said that part of their issues early on had roots in their Super Bowl loss to Philadelphia last February.

"It was just a humbling experience," Van Noy said. "I feel like defensively we didn't play well, so it's just humbling to go through that opportunity like that."

Over the latter part of this season, the Patriots have used that disappointment as motivation.

Following its bye in Week 11, New England's defense held all but one of its final six opponents to 17 or fewer points. The exception was a 34-33 loss at Miami , which ended with the Dolphins scoring on a wild final play.

Last season the Patriots finished fifth in the NFL, allowing 18.5 points per game. This season they were just slightly worse, allowing 20.3 points per game — seventh best in the league.

In the playoffs they've had some of their best moments of the season.

They held Philip Rivers and the Los Angeles Chargers to seven first-half points in the divisional round, then limited a Kansas City Chiefs offense that averaged a league-best 35.3 points during the regular season scoreless in the first half of the AFC championship game. Both times it allowed the offense to establish a cushion it would need in the second half.

"I think our team has done a really good job of putting the last week behind us and focusing on that week that's ahead," Van Noy said. "You learn from those mistakes whether they're good or bad and you try to fix those and keep trying to get better and better. This team has done a really good job of it."

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Harden scores career-best 61, Rockets nip Knicks

NEW YORK (AP)—James Harden inched past Wilt Chamberlain and didn't stop his latest one-man show until he'd tied Kobe Bryant.

On another spectacular night for the NBA's most sensational scorer, Harden not only notched his career high with 61 points, but tied Bryant's record for a visiting player at the current Madison Square Garden.

"In the Garden, I'll take it," Harden said.

The Rockets sure needed it.

Harden made the clinching layup with 3.8 seconds remaining after the Knicks turned it over, and the Rockets edged the New York Knicks 114-110 on Wednesday night.

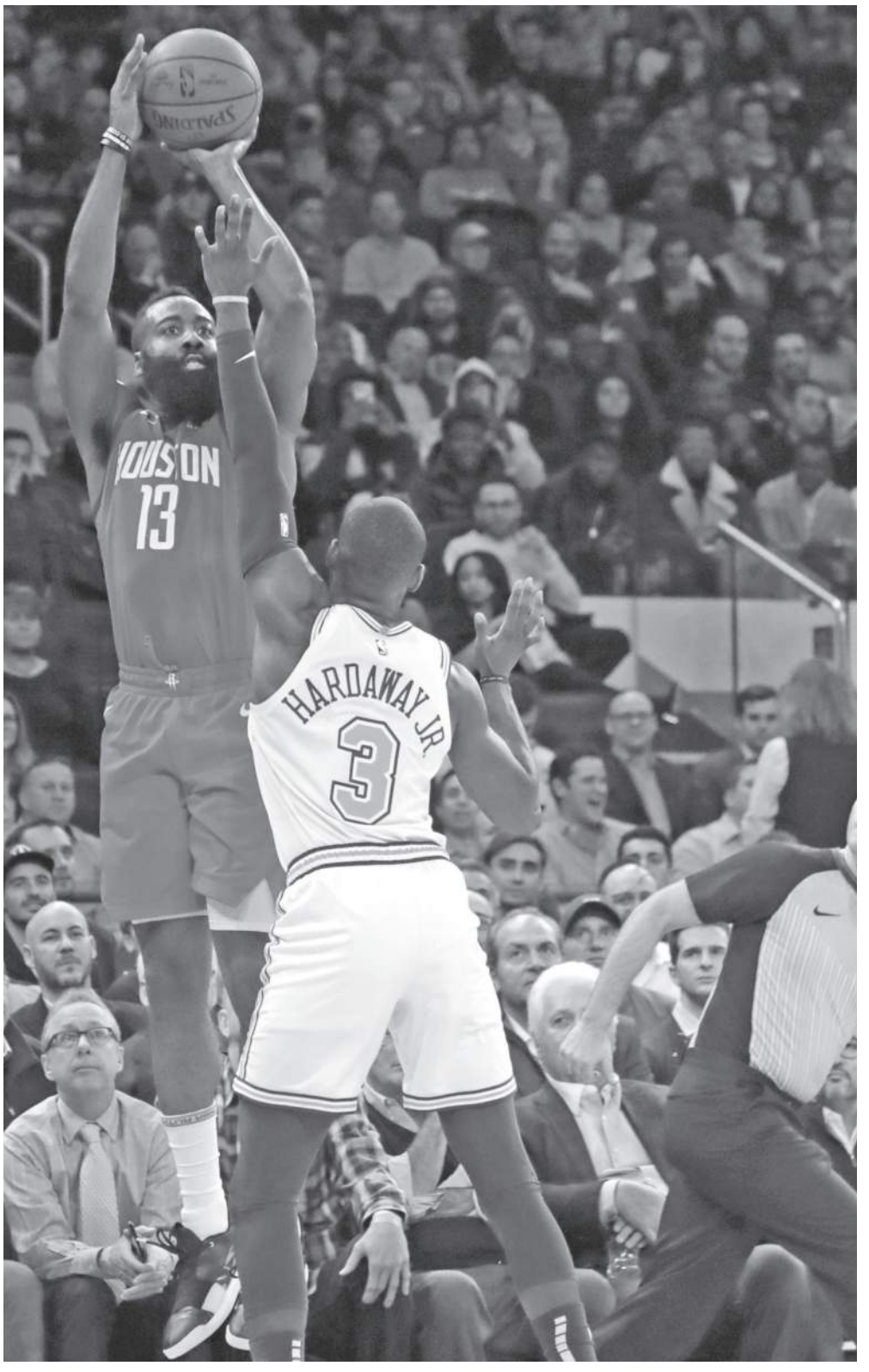
With his final basket, Harden capped his fifth 50-point game this season and a wild stretch of back-and-forth basketball across the final minutes.

"The way we played in the last six minutes, maybe four minutes, we set basketball back at least 10 years," Rockets coach Mike D'Antoni said. "It was mind-boggling the things we just did. We got the win."

Eric Gordon made the go-ahead 3-pointer with 9.8 seconds left when Houston couldn't get the ball to Harden, the NBA's leading scorer who earlier had passed Chamberlain into fourth place in NBA history with his 21st consecutive 30-point game.

A day after saying he hadn't yet experienced his Madison Square Garden moment, Harden finished 17 of 38 from the floor. He was only 5 of 20 on 3-pointers but was 22 of 25 from the line and grabbed 15 rebounds in front of a crowd that cheered some of his long jumpers but then booed after he drew foul after foul.

"They couldn't figure out what they wanted to do," Harden said. "But I appreciate them though, honestly. Tonight they kept me going and made the game exciting for me."



AP

Houston Rockets' James Harden (13) shoots over New York Knicks' Tim Hardaway Jr. (3) during the first half of an NBA basketball game Wednesday, Jan. 23, 2019, in New York.

Pacers 110, Raptors 106

In Indianapolis, Victor Oladipo suffered a serious right knee injury that could alter the season for the Indiana Pacers, who beat the Toronto Raptors.

The All-Star guard crumpled to the ground with 4:05 left in the second quarter as he tried to defend an outlet pass to Toronto's Pascal Siakam. The magnitude of the injury was apparent almost immediately. Trainers draped a towel over the leg, and players from both teams surrounded Oladipo as he remained down. No replays were shown on the video screen that stretches from free-throw line to free-throw line.

Fans began chanting his name and gave him a standing ovation as he was carted off on a stretcher. Team officials later said Oladipo was scheduled to have an MRI on Thursday.

Nets 114, Magic 110

In Orlando, D'Angelo Russell had a double-double with 25 points and 10 rebounds, Spencer Dinwiddie scored 29 points, and the Brooklyn Nets edged the Orlando Magic for their fifth straight victory.

Orlando had a chance to tie it at 112 with 3.1 seconds left in regulation, but Nikola Vucevic's basket was waved off after replay review confirmed that the Magic center had actually tipped in the ball while it was still on the rim after Evan Fournier had beaten Brooklyn's Jarrett Allen to the hoop.

Russell, who also had seven assists, hit a pair of free throws with 2.4 seconds remaining to seal it for the Nets, who have won seven consecutive games at the Barclays Center. DeMarre Carroll added 19 points for Brooklyn.

Celtics 123, Cavaliers 103

In Boston, Terry Rozier scored 22 of his 26 points in the first half and the Celtics coasted to their fifth straight victory with a win over the struggling Cleveland Cavaliers.

Jaylen Brown scored 23 points, Gordon Hayward 18 and Jayson Tatum 15 for Boston, which won its 10th straight at home. Rozier, who added eight rebounds and six assists, started in place of the ill Kyrie Irving and shot 6 for 6 and scored 16 points in the opening quarter.

Clippers 111, Heat 99

In Miami, Tobias Harris scored 22 of his 31 points in the first half, and the Los Angeles Clippers clamped down on defense after intermission to beat the Heat.

Montrezl Harrell scored 14 of his 16 points in the fourth quarter for the Clippers, who outscored Miami 44-26 in the first 20 minutes of the second half. Lou Williams added 13 points and Avery Bradley scored 12.

Harris also had seven rebounds and six assists for the Clippers.

Hawks 121, Bulls 101

In Chicago, John Collins scored a career-high 35 points, Trae Young had 12 assists and the Atlanta Hawks beat the Bulls.

Collins was 14 for 16 from the field as Atlanta kicked off a season-high, seven-game road trip with its first victory against Chicago in two years, stopping a five-game slide against the Bulls. Jeremy Lin, Young's backup, had 15 points, and Dewayne Dedmon finished with 14.

Hornets 118, Grizzlies 107

In Memphis, Kemba Walker had 22 points and seven assists, Nicolas Batum scored 18 points, and the Charlotte Hornets beat the Memphis Grizzlies for their fourth win in five games.

Jeremy Lamb and Tony Parker had 17 points each for Charlotte.

The game was the first since Grizzlies owner Robert Pera informed cornerstones Mike Conley and Marc Gasol they may be traded. The two Memphis stars did their jobs—Gasol with a triple-double on 22 points, 17 rebounds and 10 assists, and Conley adding 31 points.

Pistons 98, Pelicans 94

In New Orleans, Blake Griffin scored 20 of his game-high 37 points in the first quarter, and Reggie Bullock grabbed a loose ball and slammed home a dunk with 14.5 seconds left to lift the Detroit Pistons over the Pelicans.

Reggie Jackson added 17 points for the Pistons, who withstood a late rally by New Orleans to stop a two-game skid.

Jrue Holiday scored 29 points and Jahlil Okafor added 17 for the Pelicans, who have lost four of six and were playing without star forward Anthony Davis.

76ers 122, Spurs 120

In Philadelphia, Joel Embiid had 33 points and 19 rebounds, and the Philadelphia 76ers used a pair of four-point plays in the fourth quarter to beat the San Antonio Spurs.

With a Sixers crowd chanting "MVP!" each time Embiid touched the ball, the All-Star center delivered a sensational performance. He even scored 16 straight points that kept the Sixers in the game. Landry Shamet ended Embiid's personal run with a four-point play that pulled the Sixers within one.

Jazz 114, Nuggets 108

In Salt Lake City, Donovan Mitchell scored 35 points while making a season-high six 3-pointers to lead the Utah Jazz past the Denver Nuggets.

Ricky Rubio added 17 points and six assists, Rudy Gobert had 15 points and 11 rebounds, Joe Ingles added 14 points and eight assists and Jae Crowder had 15 points for Utah, which won for the ninth time in 11 games after hitting 19 3-pointers.

Nikola Jokic scored 28 points and had 21 rebounds and six assists to lead the Nuggets, whose two-game winning streak ended despite shooting 42 of 88—48 percent—from the field. Will Barton added 22 points and a season-high nine rebounds.

LeBron not ready to return; Rondo may play

LOS ANGELES—Help is on the way for the Los Angeles Lakers.

Veteran guard Rajon Rondo is expected to return to the Lakers active lineup for the matchup with the Minnesota Timberwolves on Thursday, according to Lakers head coach Luke Walton.

"I think Rondo will play Thursday as long as he continues to move with no setbacks until then," Walton said on Monday night, via ESPN. "But that will be something that we'll keep pushing him and we'll re-evaluate each morning."

Rondo, who's missed the Lakers' past 14 games while recovering from surgery to repair a ligament in his right ring finger, will be a game-time decision. Additionally, Rondo also missed 17 consecutive games earlier in the season due to a broken right hand that he suffered against the Portland Trail Blazers in November.

LeBron James is also supposed to return to action in the near future, though no concrete timetable has been set for his return. James has been out of action since suffering a groin injury against the Golden State Warriors on Christmas Day.

"I haven't seen him do contact yet, so I don't feel as confident," Walton said of James' return to action. "But I know you know how serious he is about his rehab. So he's doing everything possible and we've talked. I know he's dying to get back on the basketball court, but he also knows that getting healthy is the top priority. So whenever that day comes, he'll be back out there, but I would say right now I feel more confident about Rondo being ready for Thursday."

James has missed 14 consecutive games and counting, which is the longest such streak of his illustrious career.

Unfortunately for the Lakers, their injury issues don't end with Rondo and James, as second-year point guard Lonzo Ball is also sidelined for 4-6 weeks with an ankle sprain. Thanks to their persistent injury issues, the Lakers have slipped down to ninth in the Western Conference playoff picture, and would not make the cut if the postseason started today.

Australia, Japan aiming to improve at Asian Cup

ABU DHABI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — South Korea, Japan and defending champion Australia all made it through to the quarterfinals of the Asian Cup knowing there is plenty of room for improvement.

Even with the arrival of Tottenham forward Son Heung-min, South Korea struggled to beat Bahrain 2-1 in the last 16. The 2015 finalists needed an extra-time goal from Kim Jin-su to advance and set up a quarterfinal match against Qatar.

"It was a tough game," Son said. "It's all about attitude as well, and I'm a bit unhappy with our performance. I think we're better than that."

Australia needed a penalty shootout to get past Uzbekistan after 120 goalless minutes, and Japan was below its best in a 1-0 victory over Saudi Arabia.

The quarterfinals take place on Thursday and Friday. The final will be on Feb. 1 in Abu Dhabi.

AP

Australia's midfielder Tomas Rogic, left, controls the ball against Uzbekistan's midfielder Odil Ahmedov during the AFC Asian Cup round of 16 soccer match between Australia and Uzbekistan at the Khalifa bin Zayed Stadium in Al Ain, United Arab Emirates, Monday, Jan. 21, 2019.

Iran vs China

When China plays Iran on Thursday, many observers will looking at the benches.

China is coached by Marcello Lippi, who led Italy to the 2006 World Cup title, while Iran is led by former Real Madrid coach Carlos Queiroz.

Victory would give Lippi his best result in two years with China. He will leave the job after the Asian Cup.

Queiroz has been in charge of Iran since 2011. The 65-year-old Portuguese coach's contract ends after the tournament and he has been widely linked with the vacant Colombia job.

Iran has been the most consistent team at the tournament so far and is chasing a fifth straight victory.

Japan vs Vietnam

Four-time champion Japan has won all four of its games so far.

The second-round win over Saudi Arabia came as a result of a strong defensive performance from a team which no longer has Keisuke Honda, Shinji Kagawa and Shinji Okazaki to provide goals.

Japan, which reached the second round at last year's World Cup, has yet to find its fluency in attack under coach Hajime Moriyasu but will still be expected to beat Vietnam in Dubai.

Vietnam is riding high. The penalty shootout win over Jordan in the previous round provoked street parties across the southeast Asian country to rival those that greeted the win in a regional championship in December.

Australia vs UAE

Australia will be without suspended influential playmaker Tom Rogic against tournament host United Arab Emirates in Al Ain on Friday.

The Socceroos have bounced back after an opening loss to Jordan but have yet to show their best form and have struggled against teams that have sat back on defense.

A lack of goals was a concern for UAE coach Alberto Zaccheroni before the competition started. Those worries have eased somewhat after the 3-2 win over Kyrgyzstan in the second round, but the backline appeared vulnerable.

South Korea vs Qatar

South Korea, another team that has yet to show its best despite four straight wins, had to work hard to get past Bahrain.

Without injured captain Ki Sung-yueng, who has returned to Premier League club Newcastle, the South Koreans have struggled to either create or convert chances.

Son was peripheral in the last 16 and has yet to score in the tournament. He should find more space against Qatar in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Along with Iran, 2022 World Cup host Qatar has been the most impressive team in the tournament so far, winning all four games without conceding a goal.

Almoez Ali is the tournament's leading scorer with seven goals.

SIS 1

From Page 32

on our team has strengths that are all very important to our squad" Miyawaki said. "How well we play depends on how we use our strengths."

With the Lady Geckos holding a comfortable 18-11 lead in the final set, Agape's Elizabeth Xu caught fire from the server's line and delivered four consecutive serves to move her team within three, 15-18. However, SIS regained possession and won the next exchange to push its advantage to 22-17. Agape then made another run behind Ivy Yu's five uninterrupted serves and her impressive performance helped Agape cut the deficit to one, 21-22.

The Torchbearers' final push prompted SIS coach Mili Saiki to call a timeout. The lull went on to work on the Lady Geckos' favor, as when the game resumed, they regained their defensive composure, while Liang set up Miyawaki for the final two spikes to conclude the thrilling second set.

In the first set, SIS 1 and ACS exchanged possessions until the Lady Geckos broke the 14-14 stalemate behind Liang's masterfully placed sets for Lai and Miyawaki. It was all SIS 1 from thereon, moving the squad one set away from securing the win.

After beating Agape, the Lady Geckos have a couple of make-up matches left in the regular season, but their mindset is now in the playoffs, as they aim at sharpening their skills for the most crucial phase of the competition. The Lady Geckos are setting their sights on the championship, but they know that they have a lot of adjustments to make to secure the volleyball crown.

"I believe that our team needs to work on playing smart in the playoffs," Miyawaki said. "Making the right decision on each point is very crucial for us to win the championship."

Meanwhile, Agape's boys team avenged their female counterparts' loss by stonewalling SIS in two sets, 25-23, 25-19. Agape now holds a 3-2 mark, while SIS fell to a 2-2 slate.

In other results last Wednesday, Mt. Carmel School's junior varsity squad outclassed SIS 2, 25-23, 19-25, 15-4. MCS JV bagged its third win in nine games, while SIS 2 absorbed its fifth loss against only one victory.

MINI

From Page 32

raise $1.2 through sponsorships, while having a $700,000 surplus. Clint Flood was the CEO of the Vanuatu Mini Games and NMSA also got his services to handle the event on Saipan.

Wanted: Chef de mission in Samoa

Meanwhile, NMSA is looking for a chef de mission to the 2019 Pacific Games that will be held in Apia, Samoa from July 7 to 20.

NMASA will shoulder the airfare and food and lodging expenses of the CNMI chef de mission, who in return has to supervise the accommodation, meals, transportation, and other needs of the Commonwealth delegation. The official will be provided with a vehicle and phone so he/she can attend the daily meeting during the Games.

Interested individuals must submit a letter of interest and qualification for the position on or before Feb. 15 and send them to mwhite@saipan.com.

Over 100 sign up for Tagaman Triathlon

More than 100 have registered for the 30th Tagaman Triathlon that will hit the road on March 30.

The two-kilometer swim, 60K bike, and 15K race that will start and end at the Minatchom Atdao Pavilion has drawn 98 individual participants and four teams and the numbers are expected to grow with still more than two months before the competition kicks off. The figures are only from online registration, while the organizing Triathlon Association of the CNMI have also received signup forms and inquiries from local athletes.

The men's solo race has lured the most participants so far with 68. The list includes pros Soo Hwan Chun of South Korea, Jin Gu Ha of China, Vasco Van De Flier of Hong Kong, and Yu Shinozaki of Japan. A total of 30 individuals signed up in the 45 to 49 and 50 to 54 age groups and a lot of them are from Japan and Korea.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Two triathlete negotiate an uphill road during the bike course of last year's Tagaman Traithlon.

In the women's pro division, Guam national team member Laura Nedeau made the early bird list, along with Hong Kong's Chau Yu Ng. More than 20 women are entered in this year's Tagaman, which will award medals and T-shirt to those who will complete the challenging course. Winners in the various age groups will also get medals and other prizes, while cash prizes will go to the victors in the pro category.

Registration is on going with fees of $150 for individuals and $240 for team. Signup is only until March 27. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

NMIVA

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ence for everyone involved," Deleon Guerrero said. "Since this money was raised though volleyball, I think we will dedicate these funds toward our gym so we can get back to our volleyball courts."

"We are so thankful to NMIVA, their volunteers and all the sponsors including I Love Saipan, Old Tony's Seafood, Triple J Wholesale, UR Tents, and Smart Start," tournament organizer and MCS Alumni Association's Kai Higuchi added.

The Knights alumni and students came up with the idea of holding a fundraising event after MCS sustained damage from Super Typhoon Yutu last October. They then coordinated with NMIVA to hold the tournament and the volleyball group worked with volunteers to run the competition. The MCS Alumni Association, friends, and family also volunteered time to make sandwiches, which were sold as part of the fundraiser.

The volleyball event, which took place last Jan. 5, was staged on the grass courts temporarily set up at Navy Hill Field by NMIVA volunteers. The tournament drew 15 teams, which played in pool play in the preliminary round and in the double-elimination playoffs.

Team 20+++ was the last squad left standing at the conclusion of the competition, as it beat Just Do It in the finals. The Squirrels came in at third place, while Kokonutz prevailed in the loser's bracket. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

Serena stunned by Pliskova in quarterfinals

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Snead's big bets on Rams' future pay off in Super Bowl trip

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NMSA, TORRES MEET ON BUDGET PROPOSAL

Mini Games prep moving forward

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI's preparation for the hosting of the 2021 Pacific Mini Games remains on track, as Northern Mariana Sports Association made a budget presentation for the quadrennial event to the Office of the Governor last Wednesday.

"Governor (Ralph Deleon Guerrero) Torres and NMASA president Michael White met on Wednesday to discuss the status of the CNMI's preparation for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games. NMASA presented the Games details and expectations for the event," press secretary Kevin Bautista said.

"There is no commitment yet, as the administration and NMASA continue to evaluate facilities that were damaged or destroyed during the storm. The governor reaffirmed his commitment to work with NMASA, the Legislature, and the Pacific Games Council on plans moving forward. We are hopeful that we rebuild the facilities during this recovery period in time for the Games," Bautista added.

NMSA politely declined to divulge information about the budget presentation, as it would like to give Torres time to review the proposal before making the figures public.

"At the appropriate time, the governor, with the support of the Games Audit and Governance Committee, the Games Organizing Committee, and NMSA, will present a budget request to the Legislature for its consideration," NMSA president Michael White said.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The CNMI's Tyler Santos races in the 5,000m event in the Oceania Micronesian Regional Championships 2018 at the Oleai Sports Complex. The facility will be busy in 2021 when Saipan hosts the Pacific Mini Games.

When the CNMI, through NMSA, submitted a bid for the Mini Games in 2014, it estimated the costs of the hosting of the event at $1,160,000. Of the more $1-million budget for the Games, $650,000 will come from participation fees from the 22 nations, $250,000 from the government, and the remaining $260,000 from the private sector through sponsorships.

In the 2017 Pacific Mini Games held in Vanuatu, the host country allotted about $1.4 million for the regional competition and was able to

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ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
Saipan International School 1's Sally Lai spikes the ball during their game against Agape Christian School in the CCOPSA volleyball league last Wednesday at the Agape court in Gualo Rai.

SIS 1 sweeps Agape

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanroby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Saipan International School 1 finished off Agape Christian School in two sets in the girls division of the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association last Wednesday.

Lady Geckos notched a 25-17, 25-22 victory against Lady Torchbearers at the latter's court in Gualo Rai to hike their record to 4-1 for third place in the team standings. Agape suffered their eighth loss of the season and has only one win.

Though it swept Agape, SIS 1 had to douse the Lady Torchbearers' fiery run in the second set. Setter Judy Liang and frontline players Sally Lai, Maury Tybaco, and Malika Miyawaki teamed up in withstanding Agape's rally, as they consistently made an effort to bring out the best from each other, especially in the crucial moments of the second set.

"I learned that each person

See SIS 1 on Page 31

NMIVA turns in proceeds from fundraiser to MCS

The Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association and MCS Alumni Association-organized 2019 Kickoff Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball Tournament raised $774 in cash and they were turned over to Mt. Carmel School in a brief ceremony at the Knights campus early this month

NMIVA president Laurie Peterka met with MCS staff, alumni, and students last Jan. 11 and turned over the proceeds from the fundraiser. MCS principal Galvin Deleon Guerrero and MCS Institutional Development director John Blanco received the proceeds, which will be used to help rehabilitate the school's gym.

"We are so grateful to NMIVA for helping our students and alumni create such a great event. It was a great experi-

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CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mt. Carmel School president Galvin Deleon Guerrero, third left, receives the check donation from NMIVA president Laurie Peterka, fourth left, during the proceeds turnover ceremony. Also in the photo are MCS staff, students, and alumni that helped hold the 2019 Kickoff Reverse Co-Ed Grass Volleyball Tournament.

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

PAGEPLAN

FRIDAY, JANUARY 25, 2019

FOURTH RUN

32
SPORTS
13800

1
Saipan Tribune
FRONT

2
AQUA RESORT KEVINS PROMO CMYK
1400
HANA MASSAGE
MEGA DRAW
LOLLIPOPS
GILRTALK

31
SPORTS
13800

30
SPORTS
13800

3
4000
SAIPAN VEGAS CMYK
ISLAND PARADISE
MCDO PROMOS CMYK

4
JUMP FROM PAGE 1
13800

29
SPORTS
9200
DIAL RENT

THIRD RUN

28
SPORTS
13800

5
2100
IT&E CMYK

6
GUANGDONG
8000
GRANDVRIO

CLASSIFIEDS 27
TRIPLE J MAZDA RECALL
TINIAN
RATES
DELTA JVA
PIC JVA
WHATZIT

26
PASTIMES

7
6200
ARMA TECH
WORLD MSAGE
JOETEN MOTORS CMYK

8
9200
FLASHBACK

25
9200
DEAR ABBY

SECOND RUN

24
13800

9
5900
WUSHIN TIPS
SAIPAN COMPUTER APPRECIATION

10
8400
BOS VFB
RFP19 BECQ DCRM 038
MVA AGENDA

23
13800

22
13800

11
5900
WORLD TOUR
DAVID DDB MOBIL CMYK

12
6900
CCC NOTICE
CPA RFP 005-19

21
13800

FIRST RUN

20
13800

13
6900
DOCOMO PROMO CMYK

14
STAFF BOX
3000
EDITORIAL CARTOON
OPINION
5000

19
13800

18
13800

15
EDITORIAL POLICY
OPINION
11000

16
WEATHER FORECAST
AIRLINE SCHEDULE

17
13800